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CONTENTS

17 February 1994

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Baltic Defense Ministers Sign Accord, Form Working Groups *[Tallinn Radio]* 1
Baltic Free Trade Agreement Detailed *[BNS]* 1
Interior Ministers Meet To Discuss Cooperation *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 17 Feb 2

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

NATO Said 'To Disregard' Russian Stance on Bosnia *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 16 Feb]* 3
Yeltsin, Kohl Discuss Bosnia by Phone *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Foreign Ministry Seeks To Prevent NATO Ultimatum *[INTERFAX]* 3
UN Orders Russian Troops in Croatia to Bosnia *[Radio Rossii]* 4
Envoy Explains Decision To Refuse To Redeploy *[Radio Rossii]* 4
Strikes Would End Hopes for Peaceful Solution in Bosnia *[INTERFAX]* 5
Karadzic Urges Russia To Seek 'Truth' About Sarajevo *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 16 Feb]* 5
British Prime Minister Visits Nizhniy Novgorod *[INTERFAX]* 5
Details of Nizhniy Novgorod Visit *[PRESS ASSOCIATION]* 5
Leaves Nizhniy Novgorod for London *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Chernomyrdin, Armenian Counterpart Sign Economic Agreement *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Armenia To Receive Help on Nuclear Power Plant *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Grachev at Ceremony Marking Afghanistan Pullout *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 15 Feb]* 7
Gives Afghan War Statistics *[Moscow TV]* 7
Ceremonies Marking Withdrawal *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 16 Feb]* 8
Gaydar, European Parliament President Discuss Cooperation *[INTERFAX]* 9
Europarliament Chairman Meets Duma Leaders *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
TV Program on CIA, Mossad Activities *[Russian TV]* 9
START II, 'Uranium Deal' Viewed *[PRAVDA 16 Feb]* 11
Commentary on DPRK Accepting Nuclear Inspections *[Moscow International]* 13
Anti-Russian Tension in Estonia 'Unprecedented' *[IZVESTIYA 15 Feb]* 13

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Kobelev Condemns Zhirinovskiy's 'Hostile' Actions *[IZVESTIYA 17 Feb]* 15
Predicts More Party Desertions *[SEGODNYA 17 Feb]* 15
Scandal Seen Pointing to Split *[KURANTY 17 Feb]* 16
Cabinet of Ministers Session Postponed *[Moscow Radio]* 16
Yeltsin Sets Up Public Chamber Under President *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Statute Published *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Probe of May Demonstration Completed *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Press Officer on Journalists' Access to Meetings *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
PRAVDA President Rejects Criticism *[PRAVDA 16 Feb]* 18
Publication of GLASNOST To Resume *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Think Tank Addresses Fight Against Mobsters *[IZVESTIYA 26 Jan]* 19

Economic Issues

Ministry Proposes Economic Adjustments *[INTERFAX]* 21
Economy Ministry Sets Forth Guidelines *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Program Seeks To Aid Russians Outside Federation *[IZVESTIYA 17 Feb]* 22
Fedorov Questions Government Reform Strategy *[IZVESTIYA 15 Feb]* 22
Nuclear Plant Reduces Power Output Due to Debt *[ITAR-TASS]* 23

Federal Assembly

Duma Deputies Debate Amnesty for Coup Plotters *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
Deputies Reject Amnesty Proposal *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
Duma Committee To Investigate Sep-Oct Events *[INTERFAX]* 25
Poltoranin Calls For State Control of TV, Radio *[ITAR-TASS]* 25
Proceedings May Be Carried on Existing TV Programs *[SEGODNYA 16 Feb]* 25
Duma Discusses, Officials Comment on Tatarstan Treaty *[Moscow TV]* 26
Duma Hears Alternative Economic Platforms *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 12 Feb]* 26

Regional Affairs

Russian-Tatar Treaty Based on Constitutions *[ITAR-TASS]* 28
Chechen Opposition Seeks To Unite Forces *[INTERFAX]* 28
Calls For Elections *[INTERFAX]* 28
Mordovian Parliament Abolishes Constitutional Court *[Moscow TV]* 29

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Kravchuk: New Parliament To Decide on Nuclear Treaty *[ITAR-TASS]* 30
Defense Minister Says Nation Can Be 'Equal Partner of NATO' *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 15 Feb]* ... 30
Defense Minister Cited on Yugoslav Crisis, Fleet Issue *[Kiev International]* 30
UN Delegate Worried About Bosnia Air Strike *[ITAR-TASS]* 31
Military Cooperation Communique Signed With Kazakhstan *[Kiev Radio]* 31
Crimean President Announces MFN Status From Russia *[INTERFAX]* 31

National Affairs

Crimean President Confirms Appointment of Saburov *[UNIAN]* 32
Lawyers Say Saburov Cannot Perform Duties *[Russian TV]* 32
Republican Party Leader on Electoral Platform, Plans *[KHRESHCHATYK 12 Feb]* 32
'Analysis Center' Chief on Security Issues *[KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI 15 Feb]* 33

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Kebich Reorganizes Government Structure *[INTERFAX]* 34
Official on Strike Failure, Ostankino's Coverage *[Minsk TV]* 34

Moldova

Head of Russian Peacekeepers Arrives in Dniester *[ITAR-TASS]* 34
Moldovan-Russian Troop Talks Postponed *[INTERFAX]* 35
Snegur Views Elections, 14th Army, Ilascu Group *[Bucharest Radio]* 35
Russian Troops Face Hostility on Both Sides *[IZVESTIYA 16 Feb]* 36
Sangheli Condemns Romanian 'Interference' *[Bucharest Radio]* 37

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Ends 'Official Part' of U.S. Visit *[Moscow TV]* 38
Goes to UN, Meets Butrus-Ghali *[ITAR-TASS]* 38
Addresses News Conference at UN *[ITAR-TASS]* 38
Gives Speech at Columbia University *[ITAR-TASS]* 39

CAUCASUS

Azerbaijan

Fighting Continues in Kelbadzhar, Fizuli Areas *[INTERFAX]* 40
Armenia Rejects Mediation on Nagorno-Karabakh *[ITAR-TASS]* 40
Georgian Foreign Minister Meets Leaders *[AZERTAC]* 40
Baku Seeks Revision of CIS Security Treaty *[INTERFAX]* 40
Western Oil Contract Called 'Trump Card' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 15 Feb]* 40

Georgia

Georgian Troops Reportedly Amassing Around Zugdidi *[ITAR-TASS]* 41
Official Describes Abkhaz 'Atrocities' *[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY]* 41
Russian Border Post Attack Seen as 'Provocation' *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
Abkhazia Fears Georgian Army Invasion *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
Internal Troops To Guard Gas Pipeline to Armenia *[SNARK]* 42

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Defense Chief on Russia's 'Threatening' Statements *[Tallinn Radio]* 43
Head Russian Military Negotiator Arrives in Tallinn *[ETA]* 43
Russian Troops Headquarters Picketed in Tallinn *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 16 Feb]* 43

Latvia

Cabinet Approves Russian Proposal on Skrunda Radar *[BNS]* 43
Rent Issue Holding up Progess of Skrunda Talks *[Riga Radio]* 43
Border Authority Agreement Reached With Russia *[BNS]* 44
Russia Remains Largest Trade Partner in 1993 *[BNS]* 44
UK's Hurd Visits, Meets Andrejevs *[BNS]* 45

Baltic Defense Ministers Sign Accord, Form Working Groups

LD1602203794 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1300 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Excerpt] Estonian Defense Minister Indrek Kannik said that during a meeting in Riga with Latvian Defense Minister Valdis Pavlovskis and Lithuanian Defense Minister Linas Linkevicius in Riga, the Baltic countries' further integration into the Western European institutions—the European Union, NATO, and the West European Union—have been under discussion, as well as further cooperation within NATO's Partnership for Peace program and the creation of the Baltic states' peacekeeping battalion. The defense ministers signed a joint communique.

Four joint working groups were formed, Kannik said. They will be dealing with communications, control of airspace and borders, weapon standardization, and preparations for the joint peacekeeping battalion. According to Kannik, the key aim in setting up a working group for weapon standardization is to discuss matters first with the other two Baltic countries—should one of the Baltic states want to purchase weapons in the future—or decide what kind of ammunition to use. It was agreed that the working groups must have a first meeting before 15 March and draft their basic positions before 15 May.

At the beginning of (?April), a meeting of Nordic and Baltic defense ministers will take place in [word indistinct], the defense minister said. The Baltic defense ministers acknowledge in their joint communique the need to train and exchange military attaches between the three countries. Kannik said that an Estonian proposal for participation in the Partnership For Peace program is being coordinated by the Foreign Ministry. During the course of March it should become clear what shape the proposal will take. According to Kannik, this will depend on political and financial constraints. He thinks that so far, the biggest interest in the formation of a Baltic peacekeeping battalion has been displayed by the Nordic countries and Britain. They have also offered help. [passage omitted]

Baltic Free Trade Agreement Detailed

WS1602140794 Tallinn BNS in English 1038 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 16, BNS—The Baltic free-trade agreement signed Sept. 13 in Tallinn comes into force as of April 1.

Lithuania was the last Baltic state to ratify the agreement in January and the Estonian Government, with whom the agreement is deposited, was officially notified of this in February.

The agreement integrates the three markets of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania into one economic area with about 8 million consumers. The Estonian Foreign Ministry informs in its survey of the agreement that it is similar to the agreements which all the three countries have so far concluded with Finland, Sweden, Norway and Switzerland.

The agreement lays down the principles of trade in industrial goods, while an agreement on trade in agricultural produce will be concluded separately.

The agreement stipulates that all customs duties and import quotas in trade between the three countries will be abolished and no new duties on imports will be introduced.

At least for the initial period, however, some restrictions on exports will be maintained. Namely Latvia will limit exports of gypsum, limestone flux, raw hides, logs and timber, as well as scrap metal by export tariffs of 20-100 percent.

Lithuania will maintain tariffs on the export of raw hides, glands and certain types of timber. Estonia may limit exports of oil shale, gravel, clay and quartz sand by quotas.

The reason for maintaining the restrictions for the time being is to encourage domestic industries to use local raw materials and to prevent their exports so as to direct the development and structural reform of local processing industries.

An important feature of the Baltic free-trade agreement are the provisions of cumulation of the rules of origin which will enable the industries which use inputs originating in one country to export their manufactured production into Finland, Sweden, Norway and Switzerland free from tariff. Thus, the agreement widens the markets of EFTA [European Free Trade Association] for Baltic industries.

The agreement includes provisions on customs cooperation and defines the ways and means of determining the rules of origin under which goods qualify for tariff-free import. Certificates of origin issued by the respective customs authorities will be the documentary evidence for meeting these criteria.

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania agreed to liberalize trade, but also to create favorable conditions for competition.

State aid and dumping are not considered to be in line with the general functioning of the free-trade agreement. Emergency measures, however, can be taken if products originating in one country seriously threaten the market of any other party. The tariffs imposed must not exceed 25 percent and their term of validity must not be above five years.

The agreement allows temporary restrictions on export, import and transit to protect moral standards, national security, health and life of animals, people and plants, environment, intellectual property, and in some other cases.

The three states will set up a joint commission to supervise the functioning of the agreement, solve any possible problems, and develop closer cooperation in the future.

The agreement will stay in force indefinitely.

The Foreign Ministry survey notes that the Baltic states have earlier signed bilateral agreements on avoiding double taxation, which also foster trade between the three countries.

Interior Ministers Meet To Discuss Cooperation

LD1602172094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1413 GMT 16 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Kurbanova]

[Text] Ashgabat February 16 TASS—The interior ministers of the 12 CIS member-states and Latvia met today in the Turkmen capital Ashgabat to discuss further cooperation and coordination of activities in the sphere of law and order enforcement.

Participants in the meeting are to discuss the structure, staff and budget of the coordinating bureau for fighting organized crime, cooperation in escorting valuable and special cargoes on the territory of CIS states, and a procedure for a transit and hand-over of criminals taken into custody.

During their two-day meeting, the interior ministers are also expected to sign bilateral interdepartmental agreements on cooperation.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 17 Feb

LD1702061994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0531 GMT 17 Feb 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 17 TASS - The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA publishes on Thursday an interview with Deputy Chairman of the Central Bank Aleksandr Khandruyev. "The main task of the Central Bank is to curtail inflation", the newspaper quoted him as saying. "Jointly with the IMF and the World Bank a package of anti-inflation measures has been drafted in order to keep the situation under control and then considerably decrease the rate of inflation. The moderately tough financial policy which was determined yet in November 1992 will be preserved. However, the Central Bank is not going to implement the course at any price which can result in mass unemployment and a further decrease in living standards", he said.

Among other priority tasks Khandruyev listed "further reform in the settlement system and improval of the work of commercial banks". The newspaper commented that the bank will call on commercial banks to increase their charter capital, improve the licensing system, introduce world banking standards.

The Russian VESTI newspaper published on the front page reports by Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Zaveryukha and Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik. "The agro-industrial complex faces a very difficult economic and financial situation", the newspaper writes. "The debt to agriculture amounted to 2.3 trillion roubles by the beginning of 1994, while the agro-industrial complex, in its turn, owes 1.8 trillion roubles for material resources". Zaveryukha believes that "the situation in agriculture can be stabilised only by state subsidies".

Shafranik said that mutual non-payments "had aggravated the crisis situation in fuel and energy complex to the maximum". Russian and CIS consumers owe the industry 11.6 trillion roubles for 1993 which is a 6.6-time increase compared to the previous year.

"Russia should not turn into a dumping ground for poisonous waste from the world", the KRASNAYA ZAVEZDA said in an article devoted to the dumping problem. It stressed that, according to a Greenpeace report, 96 attempts to bring to Russia dangerous toxic waste with a total volume of 34 million tonnes has been registered since 1987. More than a half of the attempts - 58 - took place during the last two years. Over 80 per cent of waste brought to Russia is of the German origin. Besides Russia, in 1990-1991 nearly eight thousand tonnes of toxic waste were brought to Poland, 5,000 tonnes to Estonia, 3,500 tonnes to Romania, 270 tonnes to Ukraine and 40 tonnes to Lithuania, the daily added.

The PRAVDA, commenting on the NATO ultimatum to Bosnian Serbs, noted that "one cannot by pay attention to the more than strange metamorphosis of the United Nations". Instead of fulfilling the peace-keeping mission it actually turns into a "world gendarme who is ready to punish and does punish mostly those who do not suit the forces lobbying in the UN headquarters, rather than than those who act against peace and humanitarian principles". "There is an impression that the United Nations is distancing itself from initially proclaimed principles and turns from an impartial world arbiter into an instrument of politics of a group of countries headed by the USA", the daily said.

The TRUD publishes an interview with Mayor of Moscow Yuriy Luzhkov who, speaking about privatisation, said: "I believe it is impossible to sell for nothing state property which was created and accumulated in decades of work of many generations. (Privatisation Minister Anatoliy) Chubays either conceals the true state of things or does not understand anything in what he is doing".

The SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA publishes the speech of Communist Leader Gennadiy Zyuganov who summed up the results of the party activities in the first year since the August 1991 ban on it was lifted. Zyuganov noted, in particular, that the Communist Party "is the biggest in strength and the third in the number of electorate, has organisations in all regions and enjoys a rather numerous and influential faction in the Federal Assembly".

NATO Said 'To Disregard' Russian Stance on Bosnia

PM1602135194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Feb 94 p 3

[Sergey Sidorov report: "NATO Disregards Russia's Position"]

[Text] The NATO Council does not have the authority to make decisions on a Bosnian settlement, including decisions on inflicting strikes inside Bosnia—such decisions must be adopted by the UN Security Council. So says a Russian Foreign Ministry statement circulated at UN headquarters in New York as a Security Council document.

The first day of open debate on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina demonstrated the three fundamental approaches taken by the NATO member countries, Russia, and the Muslim countries. The NATO countries' stance has not changed, they still insist that the decision to carry out air strikes does not require additional approval from the Security Council. Evidently NATO will continue to disregard Russia's diametrically opposed stance by preparing to undertake the first ever military operation outside the bloc's zone of responsibility. The representatives of the Muslim leadership of Bosnia, and of Iran and Turkey, reflected the Muslim side's stance in their speeches. They insisted that NATO attack Serbian positions not only in Sarajevo but also in other parts of Bosnia.

In all probability no one now knows how to coordinate the largely polarized notions of a Bosnian settlement without splitting the Security Council along cold war lines. A great deal will depend on the actions taken by the conflicting sides in Sarajevo over the next few days. Russia's proposal to immediately convene the Security Council to examine practical ways of demilitarizing Sarajevo and introducing a UN administration there could, evidently, be a compromise solution. That allows the NATO countries and Russia "to stick with their friends," so to speak, while resolving what is the main task at this stage—the demilitarization of the Bosnian capital. Russia did incidentally submit this initiative long before the present deterioration in the situation in Bosnia and, had it been accepted by its Western partners in a timely fashion, it might have been possible to avoid the bloody drama in Sarajevo's market that spurred NATO to decide on bombing raids. Real moves to transfer Sarajevo to UN control could remove the threat of air strikes.

Nonetheless the way to secure a lasting peace in Bosnia lies in the formulation by the main interested parties—the United States, the EU, and Russia—of a unified concept of a political solution to the conflict. This was stated at the Russian State Duma hearings Tuesday. Indeed, if these sides want to keep Bosnia-Herzegovina as a unified state and member of the United Nations they should first remember that after World War II this republic was a state with three peoples—Serbs, Croats, and Muslims—where all vital decisions were adopted by consensus alone. Consequently, it is inadmissible at any stage in the settlement process to take anyone's side in the conflict, which may result in the escalation of the conflict. At the moment the Muslim side alone benefits from the bombing threats. The proposal made by the United States and most Islamic states that the embargo on arms shipments to Bosnia be lifted is also untenable since this means shipments of arms to the Bosnian Muslims alone.

The latest news from Sarajevo is depressing. Serbian forces have stopped handing over heavy arms to the "blue helmets" and are demanding UN monitoring of the numerically superior Muslim infantry. In its turn, the Muslim leadership is not showing willingness to do this.

Yeltsin, Kohl Discuss Bosnia by Phone

LD1602183094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1707 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow, 16 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has had a telephone conversation with FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Some topical questions of bilateral relations and international policy were discussed.

The president's press service reports that both leaders spoke in favor of establishing full-scale cooperation between the G-7 countries and Russia, and its involvement in foreign policy discussions already at the present stage.

The main theme of the conversation was an exchange of opinions on the Yugoslav problem. The Russian president stressed that it is necessary to settle the crisis in accordance with UN decisions. Boris Yeltsin and Helmut Kohl agreed to continue the dialogue on the situation in Bosnia in the nearest future and to discuss possibilities for new inititiatives toward a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Foreign Ministry Seeks To Prevent NATO Ultimatum

LD1602201294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1611 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Our purpose is to prevent the implementation of the NATO ultimatum regarding Serbia, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told the State Duma on Wednesday [16 February]. He pointed out that the Foreign Ministry is considering the NATO ultimatum as "illegitimate and contradicting with the U.N. decisions".

Lavrov told parliamentarians that "the Russian Federation's representative in the U.N. Security Council had received instructions to object to air strike on Sarajevo". He said that at Russia's request a commission of the U.N. security Council was set up to investigate the explosion at the marketplace in the Muslim part of Sarajevo on February 5.

Lavrov said the special presidential envoy of the Russian Federation Vitaly Churkin reported from the former Yugoslavia that "the agreements reached by the Serbs and the Muslims a few days ago are being implemented, heavy equipment is being transferred to the U.N. forces or pulled out of Sarajaevo". Even limited air strikes of the NATO aviation on positions of the Bosnian Serbs around Sarajevo would mean qualitative changes in the military political situation not only in Bosnia, but all over Europe, a high-ranking Russian diplomat told Interfax on Wednesday.

In his words, such air strikes "would put an end to the plan of peaceful settlement of the Bosnian conflict, because they would embitter the Bosnian Serbs and make the Muslims even more irreconcilable".

The diplomat also said that the special envoy of the Russian president, deputy foreign minister Vitaliy Churkin, who is in the Balkans now, left Zagreb for Belgrade on Wednesday to meet again with the Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic. The diplomat did not go into details about this unplanned trip noting only that it was urged by "supreme interests".

UN Orders Russian Troops in Croatia to Bosnia

LD1602132594 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] One of the main subjects discussed at the talks between Boris Yeltsin and John Major was the Bosnian problem. The Russian president and the British prime minister reiterated that it should be resolved peacefully above all. Responding to journalists' questions after the signing at the Kremlin of the Russo-British declaration on strategic missiles, Boris Yeltsin said: Certain people are trying to decide Bosnian questions without Russia's participation. We will not allow this to happen. Russia will be an active participant in the talks, so that a peaceful end is found to the war in Yugoslavia.

On Monday the UN Forces Command in former Yugoslavia ordered the Russian battalion stationed in eastern Croatia to send 400 men to Bosnia. RIA Novosti correspondent Sergey Gryzunov reports on the situation in former Yugoslavia:

[Begin Gryzunov recording] Russian diplomatic sources in Belgrade confirmed that the UN Command in former Yugoslavia had ordered the Russian battalion stationed in the Vukovar region of eastern Croatia to send a reinforced company to Bosnia and deploy it on the demarcation line between Serbs and Muslims. Unconfirmed reports say that after consultations with Moscow the battalion commander was instructed to stay put. According to unconfirmed reports, the Russian battalion did not receive a categorical order from the UN Command, but an inquiry about the possibility of transferring part of the battalion. In this instance the Russian paratroopers, who number 1,200, are subordinate to the peacekeeping forces in former Yugoslavia, not to the command of Russia's airborne assault forces.

Today, 16 February, Vitaliy Churkin, the Russian president's special representative at the talks on former Yugoslavia, changed his travel plans and made an urgent flight to Belgrade from Zagreb. He will probably hold a fresh round of meetings, his second during the last three days, with the Serbian leadership. The question of participation by Russian soldiers in the Bosnian conflict is bound to come up at these talks. Yesterday in Zagreb Churkin said that as long as the West makes decisions about Bosnia-Herzegovina without Russian participation, there could be absolutely no question of using the Russian army in operations on the territory of the present conflict.

A former criminal nicknamed Arkan, who set up his own Party of Serbian Unity and became a member of parliament, called on the Serbs to rally to the defense of the motherland if air strikes go ahead. Arkan, whose extradition is being unsuccessfully sought by Interpol, has said he is using Russian secret weapons that Vladimir Zhirinovskiy gave to him. Thus, one can say that attempts are being made to draw Russia into the Bosnian conflict under any pretext. [end recording]

Envoy Explains Decision To Refuse To Redeploy

LD1602230194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] As is known, in accordance with the ultimatum issued by the UN Security Council, the bombing of the Bosnian Serb positions by NATO aviation may start 21 February. In this connection the redeployment has started of the blue berets in the region where military operations may take place. Russian blue berets also received this order, but they have refused to obey it.

We contacted Leonid Kerestedzhiyants, Russian ambassador to Croatia, by telephone and asked him to comment on this decision.

[Begin Kerestedzhiyants recording] It was not only the Russian battalion that received this order, but a number of other battalions as part of a plan to reinforce the blue berets' positions in Sarajevo, to separate the opposing sides. The battalion did not obey this order in agreement with Moscow because the action which is currently being undertaken in the area around Sarajevo with regard to the possible bombing of the Serb positions, an issue that has been resolved without the involvement of Russia and only within the framework of NATO frees us, in our opinion, from now acting, obeying the orders of commanders who do not regard it possible to take into account our position, our approach to untangling the Bosnian- Sarajevo knot.

Our battalion is located in the Vostok sector, a long way from Sarajevo, and in general it does not border on Bosnia-Herzegovina. It is on the frontier between Croatia and Serbia. We do not consider it possible that our battalion, our soldiers should find themselves in the zone where military action may take place, which we are opposed to in principle. [end recording]

Strikes Would End Hopes for Peaceful Solution in Bosnia

LD1602223394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1534 GMT 16 Feb 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature by diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] Even limited NATO air strikes on positions of the Bosnian Serbs would mean qualitative changes in the military-political situation not only in Bosnia but all over Europe, a Russian senior diplomat told Interfax Wednesday.

He said the strikes would negatively influence a plan for a peaceful settlement because they would make the Bosnian Serbs more hostile and the Moslems more irreconcilable.

The diplomat said that the special envoy of the Russian President, Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, currently in the Balkan countries, left Zagreb Wednesday for Belgrade to again meet with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic. The diplomat preferred not to provide the details of the trip. He only said that it was dictated by "supreme interests."

He confirmed that recently the command of the UN protection force in the former Yugoslavia attempted, ignoring Moscow, to send part of the Russian servicemen from the battalion stationed in Slavonia (Croatia), to Sarajevo. "We reacted with a demarche, after which the command of the UN Protection Force apologized and said that in the future the decision on the location of the Russian servicemen will be taken after preliminary consultations with Moscow, said the diplomat.

He, however, did not deny that the Russian "blue helmets" may be deployed near the Bosnian capital. He said, however, that this would only happen if the conflicting sides agree to such a measure, in which case the question of the NATO bombing would be crossed out from the agenda and reinforcements will be needed to back up the UN troops deployed around Sarajevo. But even in such a case, the last word would be Moscow's, he concluded.

Sources in the State Duma told Interfax that members of the parliamentary committee for geopolitics, which on Tuesday considered the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, decided, after the consultations with Russian Foreign Ministry experts, to give up the appeal to restore the former Yugoslavia.

According to one deputy, the new wording of the committee's resolution will contain an appeal to all Bosnian factions to halt, as early as possible, bloodshed and to forgive the offences of the past.

Karadzic Urges Russia To Seek 'Truth' About Sarajevo

PM1602150994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Feb 94 p 1

[Report by Sergey Sidorov: "Serbs Urge Moscow To Bring Investigation Into Explosion in Sarajevo to a Conclusion"]

[Text] Belgrade—Unless the truth is established on this occasion, the Muslim side will commit further crimes, deceiving the world community and contributing to the escalation of war in the region. So said Radovan Karadzic, president of the Serbian Republic (Bosnia-Herzegovina), in a written appeal to Vitaliy Churkin, the Russian president's representative at the talks on Yugoslavia.

The leader of the Bosnian Serbs again urged the Russian leadership to ensure the establishment of an international independent commission of experts to investigate the explosion in Sarajevo which cost the lives of dozens of innocent people. Karadzic stressed that in the search for the truth it is necessary to carry out the political analysis Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin mentioned. Such an analysis will show which of the warring sides in Bosnia has derived political benefit from the crime.

British Prime Minister Visits Nizhniy Novgorod

LD1602171594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1530 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] British Prime Minister John Major arrived in Nizhniy Novgorod, a regional center on the upper Volga, on a one day visit from Moscow. His party was welcomed by Boris Nemtsov, head of the local administration.

He informed journalists in the airport that Russia will be visited by Queen Elizabeth II of Britain.

Major visited Progress, a car service which was among Russia's first joint stock societies. He will visit the local privatization voucher exchange and the Nizhniy Novgorod Fair joint stock society.

Details of Nizhniy Novgorod Visit

LD1602211094 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1800 GMT 16 Feb 94

[By Chris Moncrieff, PRESS ASSOCIATION Political Editor, in Nizhniy Novgorod]

[Text] The Prime Minister saw for himself today the fruits of Britain's multi-million pound know-how fund designed to boost the transformation of Russia's economy. But he can hardly have been impressed with what he saw on a trip to Nizhniy Novgorod, the place where President Boris Yeltsin's reforms are moving fastest.

The point of the visit was to see a trucking factory—but it turned out to be little more than a collection of ramshackle buildings. A large, burly man, speaking in Russian, described the machinery to Mr Major, who tried to look interested. For most of his visit he has been wearing a typically Russian black fur hat, which seemed just a fraction too large, falling down his forehead to just above his eyes. He wore it this morning as he boarded the aircraft in Moscow but was bare-headed during his walkabout in Nizhniy Novgorod when he was mobbed by some 400 people.

When someone asked him why he was not wearing it on such a cold day, Mr Major retorted with a smile: "Not a bit of it. It is a nice, pleasant spring day." In fact, the town was bleak and the temperature several degrees below freezing.

During his walkabout, Mr Major entered a habadasher's shop and later went into a restaurant for a buffet lunch. The news that he planned to meet the people was broadcast frequently on local radio and hundreds of people turned out to greet him. In crowded Poprovka Street, he plunged into the crowds and one woman told him with a smile: "It's good to see you here but you can't see Nizhniy Novgorod in a single day."

A smiling Mr Major replied: "One day here is better than a day sitting in my office back in London."

The Prime Minister is the first Western leader in office to visit Nizhny Novgorod since it was founded in 1221.

When one local dignitary urged him to promise that he would return, Mr Major told him: "It is 770 years since a Western leader came here—I promise you that I will be back before another 770 years have elapsed."

Overall, however, his visit to Russia has been dominated by the civil war in Bosnia. The Russians have had centuries of affinity with the Serbs and would be reluctant to see air strikes on them if they failed to comply with the Nato demand to surrender control of their artillery on the outskirts of Sarajevo or remove it altogether. The Prime Minister assured Mr Yeltsin this would be a limited operation if an air strike had to happen at all.

Mr Yeltsin, although warning that Russia would not allow force to be used without her sanction, seemed to be moving towards the idea that air strikes might be necessary as one means of ending the war.

For his part, Mr Major said he believed they could now see peace starting up in Sarajevo and hoped this could lead to a settlement elsewhere in Bosnia. But he stressed—and the view was shared by Mr Yeltsin—that there could never be a military solution.

If the UN commanders on the ground appeal for more troops, Britain's policy would be that those countries which have not contributed troops so far should now be asked to do so.

But no details were available from the Prime Minister's office on whether such a request had been made by Britain to the UN headquarters in New York.

The visit included the signing of several economic and cultural agreements between the two countries. One was a pledge by both sides that nuclear missiles should be "de-targeted" from pointing at each of the two countries. They also signed an agreement that British and Russian troops, mostly Army personnel, would take part for the first time for 50 years in joint exercises, in Russia, and in the United Kingdom. It is expected that the UK exercises would be held on Salisbury Plain, although no firm decision has been taken.

Elsewhere, the Prime Minister met British and Russian businessmen, Russian parliamentarians and other influential figures.

He was accompanied in Moscow by Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, who this morning split off from the main party and flew into Riga for talks with the leaders of the three Baltic states.

Mrs Norma Major, who accompanied her husband, visited a children's hospital in Moscow and the Bolshoi Ballet School.

Mr Major virtually refused to answer questions during his visit about Back to Basics and his domestic problems, including the resignation as a parliamentary private secretary of Tory MP Hartley Booth over his "kiss and cuddle" relationship with Emily Barr, his 22-year-old former assistant. He makes it a policy, other than in exceptional circumstances, to answer questions when he is abroad only about immediate business in hand.

Leaves Nizhniy Novgorod for London

LD1602184094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1741 GMT 16 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Evald Kessariyskiy and Vladimir Taranov]

[Text] Nizhniy Novgorod February 16 TASS—British Prime Minister John Major put forward a new initiative at a meeting with local entrepreneurs at the joint stock society "Nizhnegorodksya Yarmarka" on Wednesday [16 February] to open a business centre in Nizhniy Novgorod which will render technical assistance to businessmen.

The British prime minister said that the move will promote people's personal interest in carrying out reforms. He pointed out that the best way for cooperation between Russia and Great Britain is the interaction between private sectors of the two countries.

Later in the day major visited a voucher auction centre and attended an auction held there.

On Wednesday evening the British prime minister left Nizhniy Novgorod for London.

Chernomyrdin, Armenian Counterpart Sign Economic Agreement

LD1602205894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1745 GMT 16 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow February 16 TASS—Prime Ministers Viktor Chernomyrdin of Russia and Grant Bagratyan of Armenia signed an agreement on trade and economic cooperation in 1994 in Moscow late on Wednesday [16 February].

Under the agreement, Russia will provide Armenia with 141.3 million U.S. dollars worth of goods in 1994. Energy supplies to Armenia will remain at about the 1993 level.

Chernomyrdin stressed the need to boost trade between the two countries. He said Russia understands the difficulties facing Armenia but the question of Russian credits to Armenia was not discussed at the talks because "Russia's budget has not been approved yet." He added that "in any event only limited credits will be issued and only in extreme situations."

Armenia To Receive Help on Nuclear Power Plant

LD1702114594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1022 GMT 17 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow February 17 TASS—Armenia, which faces an acute energy crisis, may restart its nuclear power plant with the Russian help this year, Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets and Armenian Prime Minister Hrant Bagratyan agreed on Thursday. They agreed that a corresponding agreement may be signed already next week.

The power plant, which was shut down after a major earthquake shook Armenia late in 1988, may resume operations already this year if Russia supplies the necessary equipment and personnel. Armenia pledged to bear all expenses and Soskovets advised that Armenian diaspora abroad could render financial assistance as well.

It is expected that the Russian personnel at the plant will number 560 experts and the plant will produce 800 megawatts of electricity. The restart of the Armenian nuclear power plant is opposed by Germany and Turkey, according to Bagratyan.

Grachev at Ceremony Marking Afghanistan Pullout

PM1502131594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Feb 94 p 1

[Report by Colonel Aleksandr Oliynik: "Five Years After the War"]

[Text] A ceremonial gathering to mark the fifth anniversary of the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan was held 14 February in the Russian Army Central House. The gathering was addressed by Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, and internationalist soldiers.

The day before, Hero of the Soviet Union Colonel General Boris Gromov, deputy defense minister, who commanded the 40th Army five years ago, held a press conference at the Defense Ministry.

Gives Afghan War Statistics

LD1602022394 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1406 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Speech by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, at a meeting of Afghan war veterans on the fifth anniversary of the conclusion of the war, in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses in Moscow on 15 February—live or recorded]

[Text] [Aleksandr Shkirando, master of ceremonies] The first speaker, in accordance with military rank, will be Pavel Sergeyevich Grachev, Russian Defense Minister and Hero of the Soviet Union, who for many of those here is, above all, a comrade-in-arms who gave over four years to the war in Afghanistan.

Pavel Sergeyevich, a great deal has been said over the past five years about the Afghan war. Many appraisals have been made, mainly negative ones. But, you know, even we journalists cannot speak confidently about the results and figures. After all, it is a matter of concern to many that the numbers of our losses, the numbers even of those who took part in the war, are still unknown. Maybe today, after five years, you, as Defense Minister, will lift that veil for us.

[Grachev] Yes, after five years, we shall lift the veil, at last, from the tragedy that occurred several years ago.

Esteemed comrades and friends in battle. One of the most dramatic pages in our history is now in the past—a war that lasted a long nine years and 51 days. A war that even today does not allow our memories to rest and evokes pain in our hearts.

Today's assessment of those events is well known. But no matter who describes the Afghan war and how he describes it, our casualties cannot be devalued, nor our wounds and illnesses, or the grey hairs of our mothers and wives.

We Afghan veterans, and there are 545,000 of us, performed our military duty honorably, and we are beyond reproach. The servicemen in Afghanistan during that war were soldiers of whom the vast majority did not spare themselves and displayed true courage, heroism and loyalty to the military oath, to the people, to the Motherland. Nearly 200,000 of them have been decorated with Orders and medals; 76 became Heroes of the

Soviet Union, including 26 posthumously. Today their names are known to the whole country.

It is not our fault that the army had to pay with its own blood for the mistakes of the political leaders. So today, 15 February, we are marking the anniversary not of the withdrawal of the troops, not of any jubilee. Today is a day of recollection and a day of mourning for us. A total of 13,833 of our comrades-in-arms did not return from the Afghan war. The lamentable number of the overall losses in Afghanistan is also well known—14,454 people. Eternal memory and glory to them, the officers and men, generals, manual and office workers, security men, MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] personnel, advisers, doctors, nurses, and journalists. We shall remember them, bowing our heads low, for as long as our hearts shall beat. I call on you to honor the bright memory of those who died with a minute's silence. [crowd rises and observes moment of silence]

Please be seated. Friends in battle, Afghan veterans. We paid a terrible price in that war. While carrying out combat operations on the territory of Afghanistan, 23,258 people were wounded, 26,798 people were injured, maimed or shocked, and over 400,000 suffered illnesses of varying degrees of severity—mainly infectious ones. We have no right to forget that in Russia alone 4,500 people maimed in Afghanistan live alongside us. Over 7,000 people in Russia, Russian families, are in mourning for sons, brothers or fathers. It is our sacred duty, the sacred duty of Russia, to do everything possible so as not to leave the mothers and widows of those who died, and the orphaned children alone with their grief. I think that today we are once again obliged to pose the questions of the social protection, psychological and moral support of Afghan veterans in society, with full regard for their acuteness.

Unfortunately, even today, someone is trying to depict the Afghan veterans as a ruined, lost generation. Such statements can only be made by people without honor or conscience. The Afghan veterans do not expect handouts or charity from anyone. Most of them have found a worthy place in society. They are working, studying, bringing up children, helping their friends in combat and, doing their utmost—I'm not afraid to use a lofty word—to build up and to help to reconstruct the country.

But society must value them properly. It is necessary to step up the efforts to search for our servicemen and bring them home—the prisoners of war, whose numbers are still put at 293. Practical, real business is essential in each specific case and in each destiny.

I am addressing these words not just to the people of Russia, but also to the Afghan veterans who are today the citizens of other Commonwealth states. They number 320,000. Today our armed forces comprise some 30,000 officers and ensigns who trod the fiery roads of Afghanistan. They are a particular class of servicemen, and I want to give them a special mention. Today the Afghan veterans form the real nucleus of the new Russian Army. The armed forces are proud of them and draw on their experience of life and combat. They bring into the teams of servicemen a spirit of comradeship, mutual help and true service to the Fatherland. Their role is extremely high in educational and patriotic work and in dealing with welfare matters.

As for the Afghan veterans' movement as a whole, we see in it a healthy force aimed at strengthening morale and the combat spirit of the army and navy, building up new armed forces, uniting and regenerating Russia.

Dear Afghan veterans. Dear members of the families, near and dear ones. I wish you on this day cheerfulness, optimism, joie de vivre, good health and happiness - to you and those who are close to you. Thank you.

[Shikirando] Thank you, Pavel Sergeyevich. The figures you have given are higher than those that were known previously, and it is, in general, surprising that it has taken five years to establish at least that truth. But, clearly, it is the fate of this war, as it is the fate of those who died there or who went through the war, that we find out the truth only years later. I personally am sure that this is not the whole truth either and that it has not been stated in full.

Ceremonies Marking Withdrawal

PM1602152594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Feb 94 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Oliynik: "Lingering Echo of the Afghan War"]

[Text] Think back to 15 February 1989.... This date, when, five years ago, the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan was completed, is not marked in the calendar. But for the people is it a Day of Remembrance, when we remember those who did not come home. A ceremony was held 14 February in the Central House of the Russian Army to mark the fifth anniversary of the withdrawal of the 40th Army from Afghanistan. It was conducted by the Russian Federation Defense Ministry.

"Whatever society thinks of the Afghan war today," Hero of the Soviet Union Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation defense minister, said in his opening speech, "it is clear to us, the military, that the vast majority of Afgan war veterans, as soldiers in that undeclared war, displayed true courage and heroism and loyalty to the military oath and to the homeland. We are not to blame for the fact that the Army was forced to pay in blood for the political leaders' mistakes, and pay dearly—13,833 of our fighting comrades died brave deaths in Afghanistan. May their memory and reputation live forever!"

The ceremony participants observed a minute's silence in memory of the dead.

"There are around 30,000 commissioned and noncommissioned officers in the Russian Army at the moment

who served in Afghanistan," Hero of the Soviet Union Colonel General Boris Gromov, Russian Federation deputy defense minister, stressed in his report. "The Defense Ministry has done and will continue to do everything possible to provide social protection for Afghan war veterans and in particular for the families of the dead and missing and for invalids."

He noted that, despite financial problems, the Defense Ministry has just recently given assistance to more than 7,000 families of soldiers killed in the Afghan war and to around 4,600 invalids living in Russia.

The meeting was addressed by Marshal of the Soviet Union Sergey Sokolov, retired Colonel General Yuriy Tukharinov, Aviation Colonel General Viktor Kot, and USSR People's Artist Iosif Kobzon.

Yesterday, 15 February, wreaths were laid on the Grave of the Unknown Soldier and at the Perovo memorial to Muscovites killed in the Afghan War on behalf of the Defense Ministry leadership and the Committee for Internationalist Soldiers' Affairs under the Council of Commonwealth States' Heads of Government.

Gaydar, European Parliament President Discuss Cooperation

LD1602224594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1530 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Leader of the State Duma's Russia's Choice faction Yegor Gaydar and President of the European Parliament Egon Klepsch held talks on Wednesday on cooperation between the European Parliament and Russia's new parliament, on the European Community's technical assistance to the Russian Federation and the creation of a ruble-based economic system in the CIS.

The talks were held at the Institute of Economic Problems of the Transition Period directed by Gaydar. It lasted for 45 minutes and both officials spoke English. Journalists were not invited.

A Russian participant in the meeting told Interfax that Egon Klepsch had asked Gaydar about the role of the State Duma's committee for international affairs in making foreign-policy decisions.

Gaydar believes that it would be expedient to use part of the European Community's aid for creating efficient economic legislation and developing a system of economic education. He also emphasized the importance of promoting the development of the democratic institutions and supporting the regional democratic press which, he said, experiences serious economic problems and suffers from financial dependence on the local authorities.

Gaydar assured Klepsch that the Russia's Choice faction would support Russia's joining the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Commenting on the State Duma's position, he said that it was unpredictable.

Europarliament Chairman Meets Duma Leaders

LD1602212594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1844 GMT 16 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Denis Perkin]

[Text] Moscow February 16 TASS—Europarliament Chairman Egon Klepsch met with the leadership of the Russian State Duma to discuss prospects for enhancing bilateral cooperation between the two bodies.

The sides also focused on the situation in the European Union, the situation in Bosnia and EU [European Union] technological assistance to CIS coutnries.

Speaking at a news conference devoted to the results of his talks in Moscow here today, Klepsch said that he had met with Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to discuss the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and inform them about measures taken by the Europarliament to settle the conflict.

The Europarliament supported the NATO ultimatum urging Bosnian Serbs to withdraw their heavy guns from around Sarajevo.

Magdaline Hoff, who is in charged of relations with CIS states and who also attended the news conference, called for holding talks in Bosnia on the basis of partnership and cooperation rather than dictating conditions to one side.

TV Program on CIA, Mossad Activities

LD1602183794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1545 GMT 13 Feb 94

[From the "Espionage" program]

[Text] [First announcer] The Central Intelligence Agency is trying to earn money wherever it can. For example, a CIA foreign language teaching computer program, for Russian and Spanish in particular, recently appeared in American shops. These programs, known by the name Exito, were compiled by CIA experts specially for the teaching of their agents. According to a representative of the U.S. intelligence service, with the help of Exito most students start speaking Spanish, for example, after two weeks of taking the course for seven hours per day. The teaching program that has come onto the market has hardly been changed. Only the special terms and expressions that the CIA agents were to use in their espionage work have been eliminated.

[Second announcer] Naturally the commercial activity of the CIA does not cover all the expenses of that intelligence department. Therefore, in spite of the cuts announced in the state budget, the U.S. Administration has asked Congress for $28 billion for the needs of the intelligence service. They should definitely get down to concentrating on our economic interests, Bill Clinton, the new U.S. President, explained. He evidently had in

mind the wave of financial and industrial espionage which has gripped the western world at the present time.

[First announcer] The CIA is asserting that the United States is literally teeming with foreign agents at the present time. India, Russia, Germany, and Egypt are conducting active industrial espionage against the United States. French agents have almost infiltrated 49 U.S. companies. Taiwan has 280 spies in the United States. The CIA staff calls industrial espionage the main threat to national interests. According to the CIA, the United States lost $100 billion last year because of this.

[Second announcer] There are friendly states, but there are no friendly intelligence services, Allen Dulles, one of the founders of the CIA, reminds us. The enemies in this new special services' war are the former allies in the struggle against communism—the Japanese, the French, and finally Mossad. Israel undertook espionage in the United States earlier, moreover. We draw your attention to an account about the Israeli intelligence service.

[Begin video report showing Mossad units, news clips of international events that involved Mossad] [Correspondent] Mossad: In actual fact that malicious-sounding, hissing word, the utterance of which by nationalist patriots is almost indecent simply means administration, the administration of the intelligence service, of special operations. It appeared in 1951 following the reorganization of the Israeli special services. Apart from Mossad, there is also the Aman military intelligence service in Israel, the Shin Bet security service, and the department of research and planning of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mossad is involved in political intelligence work and is responsible for all the operations of Israel's special services abroad. Mossad is financed from the military budget. It consists of nine directorates in which approximately 2,000 members of staff are employed. Of these there were 500 officers. Naturally there are more Mossad agents. All members of staff in the organization enjoy benefits. They enjoy a supplement of 30 percent to their wages for risk. They also have the right to import goods from abroad without paying duty on them. And they go to the top of the housing list.

When a person joins Mossad, military training is taken into account. Parachutists and navy divers are given preference. New recruits undergo training at two intelligence schools, in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. They spend the first six months studying the fundamentals of espionage, coding, mastering weapons, self-defense techniques, using electronic equipment, methods of shadowing and identification. Then they divide into specializations according to country.

Almost all Mossad's officers are obliged to speak Arabic fluently. For this purpose, Mossad and counterintelligence definitely sends members of its staff to the Gaza sector and to the West Bank for them to practice their Arabic for two years. Among the special training assignments are the following, for example. To penetrate Jordan and make one's way to the desert where only Bedouin live and to return alive, and not to cause any fuss while doing it.

So, throughout the world many Mossad staff members are working under the wing of state or private institutions. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, travel agencies, as airline representatives of the El Al air company, and of trade unions. Officers of the Israeli intelligence service enjoy great freedom in carrying out specific operations. For example, when recruiting an agent, an officer is not obliged to consult the center every time. In recruiting agents Mossad makes considerable use of the Jewish diaspora which is known to be the most unified in the world. Incidentally this is precisely what explains the success of the Israeli intelligence service.

Moreover, in recruiting people, Mossad also uses false information. They may approach officers from various NATO countries, for example.

Naturally, Mossad is most active in the Arab world. It gathers information on literally everything, on arms, mutual relations between Arab leaders, the arms trade and in general on the political activity of the Arabs. Mossad actively pursues measures to influence the politics in Arab countries. It is widely known that it is not squeamish about political murders. The Italian magazine PANORAMA published a list of 24 Palestinian leaders who were eliminated by Mossad from 1972 to 1988. These were journalists, large-scale arms traders, intelligence officers, and PLO military leaders. The murders were carried out in Beirut, Rome, Paris, Athens, Tunis, and in Cyprus.

Mossad has a strong position on the African continent, in Kenya, Liberia, and Zaire. It has particularly close mutual relations with the Republic of South Africa intelligence service. In the 1960's Mossad received $80 million from the CIA to promote the activity of the Israeli intelligence service in Africa. Mossad instructors also trained sabotage experts in Honduras and Pakistan, and trained intelligence officers for a number of Latin American countries.

Mossad also carried out and is carrying out intelligence activity against the Soviet Union, Europe and even the United States, and the theft of nuclear materials, military technology, and secret documents. In 1968 the plans for the French Mirage fighter were stolen which formed the basis for a similar Israeli aircraft, the Kfir. In 1969, five of the latest missile patrol boats were stolen from the French port of Cherbourg. In 1979 Israeli agents made a recording of a conversation between Andrew Young, the U.S. permanent representative at the United Nations, and the PLO observer. The CIA arrested the Israeli spy (J. Ford) for handing over classified documents. In 1986 Vanunu, a former member of staff of the Israeli nuclear center who told the public about Israel's nuclear potential was kidnapped in London,

Moreover the most considerable successes of any intelligence service always remain in the shadows. Therefore

it is for the experts to judge whether all these notorious operations by Mossad should be considered successes.

In the view of the CIA expressed in a special report on Mossad, the specific task of the Israeli intelligence service consists of sowing discord among the Arabs and carrying out actions that will promote the sympathy of the West toward Israel. As far as the methods of the Israeli intelligence service are concerned, no one put it as eloquently as Yitzaq Shamir, Israel's former premier: After one shoots one's enemy, one fires a second shot to be sure that he is dead.

He should know. In his time this person had a dizzy career in Mossad, from an ordinary operative in 1955 to deputy director in 1965.

Yitzaq Shamir was not the first and not the last to start his career in the intelligence service. The intelligence service in various countries nurtured quite a few well known scientists, political scientists, and writers: Graham Green and Somerset Maugham, John Le Carre, and Daniel Defoe. In their time these people worked for the British intelligence service. We have examples like that, too.

START II, 'Uranium Deal' Viewed

PM1602141794 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Feb 94 p 5

[Article by Colonel Petr Belov: "About Missiles, Their Uranium, and Targeting Information"]

[Text] As an independent expert on systems safety engineering I cannot fail to share my fears at the latest "gift" to the Russian people from the munificence of the presidents who gathered in Moscow at the start of the year. Let me remind you that a year previously there was a similar "gift" in the form of the hasty signing of the treaty on the reduction of strategic offensive arms—START II—which, even before it was ratified, had played a pernicious role for us. Here I shall dwell only on the latest new "partnership" initiatives which develop this treaty: the nontargeting of strategic missiles against each other, Ukraine's complete elimination of all nuclear weapons, and the United States' purchase of Russian weapons-grade uranium.

I think there is no better guarantee of stability under present conditions than the certainty of our potential for not leaving an aggressor unpunished. The correctness of my thoughts is confirmed not only by the lessons of history but also by the recent conclusions of the international conference in Rio de Janeiro, the statements by U.S. Vice President A. Gore, and the research of Academician N. Amosov. In that light you cannot help concluding that the agreements concluded in Moscow recently on the military-economic aspects of cooperation are similar in form and anti-Russian in content. Their danger lies in definitively depriving Russia of the potential for deterrence, in selling off for a song what belongs to its future generations.

Retargeting of Missiles

Perhaps this is the most effective confirmation (for the uninitiated) of partnership relations between the former adversaries. Here there is a political dividend for all presidents at the same time and (although extremely implausible) a reduction in the gravity of the consequences of the unsanctioned launch of any missile. Its lethal charge will merely fall into the ocean or onto an uninhabited island. It is emphasized, it is true, that it is hardly possible to control the targeting information of modern strategic missiles and consequently this initiative is allegedly utterly "innocuous."

In reality everything will depend on the energy of the "partners'" political leadership and the degree of resistance to that initiative from military professionals. After all, only they know the other side: the loss of combat readiness is more dangerous to the victim than to the aggressor; mistakes and disruptions during retargeting are fraught with an excessive risk of accidents; the computing of missiles' new targeting information and the replacement of old ones give rise to colossal expenditure; the vigilance and responsibility of the combat crew on duty with "untargeted" missiles are reduced; and the actions of these crews when they receive a combat order becomes drastically more complicated. All this as a whole casts doubt on certainty as regards our combat readiness.

If this initiative is implemented Russia loses in the combat readiness of its multiple-warhead silo-based missiles considerable more than the United States. At least several minutes essential to re-record the "cancelled" targeting information. With our missiles' more radical "retargeting," which is indicated by the quite protracted deadline for its implementation (nearly five months) tens of minutes, if not hours, will be required to restore their combat readiness. In all cases our strategic nuclear forces could be deprived of their deterrent role in a retaliatory counter-strike, the only kind of strike acceptable to us, and will then be destroyed if necessary by high-precision, diversionary or other weapons.

In contrast to us, the U.S. side remains in a more advantageous position. After all, its combat might is based on high-precision cruise missiles and submarine-launched ballistic missiles. To all appearances it is not proposed to retarget the former and it is pointless to retarget the latter: They are already continuously and automatically retargeted in the process of combat patrol. It is virtually impossible to deprive them of this potential, still less to monitor the removal of targeting information from naval missiles.

You ask: Why was the United States previously skeptical about our statement on the nontargeting of Russian missiles on U.S. territory but is now itself coming out with a similar initiative? I think the reason here lies in the sincere readiness of present-day Russia's top political echelons to undertake unilateral disarmament. Nor is there any doubt that a gamble is being taken on the

military's impotence: After all, it was the Russian Federation Defense Ministry leaders and above all the Strategic Rocket Forces who unconditionally agreed to the "destabilizing" role of our multiple-warhead silo-based missiles in favor of single-warhead mobile missiles.

Ukraine's Disarmament

The surprising attention paid toward the problem of "Ukrainian" nuclear weapons, including by the new U.S. President, is generated by the same overtly expressed U.S. desire for absolute military superiority but not through its own arms upgrading but through the weakening of potential adversaries. It is Ukraine's obstinacy over adopting nuclear-free status and, worse, its intention to keep 46 of the most modern multiple-warhead silo-based SS-24 missiles with 460 warheads which are not only preventing the destruction of similar Russian SS-18 missiles under START II but are also casting doubt on the U.S. THAAD antimissile program (a cheap SDI).

With the United States' present unconditional supremacy in offensive arms both conventional and nuclear, it also wants to have a guaranteed antimissile defense. The multiple-warhead silo-based missiles are an obstacle. Even the full-scale SDI, never mind its truncated version, cannot intercept their numerous warheads. The missiles on our submarines and the single-warhead SS-25 missiles are another matter: They have a minimal chance even of flying since as a result of their lack of defense they could easily be destroyed beforehand on their patrol routes or at the points of permanent deployment. If some of them do survive they will be able to take off only one after another and there will be very few of them (no more than 100) so the United States needs only a relatively cheap ground-based ABM system—in other words the last stage of SDI geared to the destruction of up to 200 nuclear missiles.

Those are the reasons for B. Clinton's entirely natural interest in Ukrainian nuclear status and the United States' as yet unrealized wish to review the two first articles of the 1972 ABM treaty formally banning the creation of even a restricted territorial ABM system. Thus very few obstacles are left on the path toward undivided rule and absolute impunity for any actions.

America's position can be understood but is unacceptable, not only to Russia and Ukraine, but also to the rest of the world. There are at least two reasons for this: The satisfaction of U.S. ambitions will not increase stability in the world and, if it does not immediately plunge the world into fresh anarchy, will at any rate make it violent. The U.S. pragmatists' cynicism is striking: After all, they intend to implement the United States' attainment of absolute military supremacy and its own safety at other people's expenses, primarily at Russian expense.

What lies behind their impudent treatment of "sovereign Ukraine?" The removal of its natural right to choose the minimum necessary and effective strategic deterrent means will hardly be compensated for by illusory economic and military guarantees. The billion promised for weapons-grade uranium plus the further two billion in the form of possible IMF credits will hardly resurrect its economy. Expectations for an even greater reduction by the Russian side of prices for energy carriers exported for the Ukrainians are also obviously naive: Prices on the world market have already been made as cheap as possible through the zeal of the Americans.

Uranium Deal

But however paradoxical it may seem, the most destructive thing for Russia will be its "breakthrough" to the market in enriched uranium, where the Americans have always ruled. Nor will they lose our this time. If Russia received 12 billion for 500 tonnes of uranium sold to the United States, the Americans as a result will pocket at least 300 billion—such is the profitability of this "deal of the century." After all, the main second-hand dealer under the contract is the "Enrichment Corporation" firm, which has retained the right to review the terms of the deal annually, naturally in the direction of reducing the purchase price.

Most striking of all was official Moscow's agreement to the long term nature of this contract. After all, it is already known that at present world extraction rates the stocks of natural uranium, oil, and gas are sufficient for 50 years. Nor do we have guarantees of the development of thermonuclear energy and plutonium reactors. Having lost two thirds of its uranium sources with the collapse of the USSR, Russia is now selling nearly all its released weapons-grade uranium?! Without uranium nuclear electric power stations you will not get far with coal, logs, and hydroelectric power stations.

The actual atmosphere in which the "uranium deal" was prepared and the interpretation of this agreement for the public are also interesting. Nuclear Power Minister V. Mikhaylov, who explained to the Americans the figures for the quantity of weapons-great uranium we have and the number of nuclear warheads, took a most active part in creating a halo of "dire necessity" around this step. Since the revised figures exceeded estimates so far available oy approximately 50 percent, this was reflected in a reduction of purchase prices for uranium. Having bought it the Americans will be able right now to resell the uranium at three to five times the price, and what will the price be in 20 years?

Nor can we fail to note one more aspect of this affair—its link with our unilateral disarmament under START II. Russia's selling off of its uranium will have a deplorable effect on international stability. After all, even potentially Russia will be deprived of the opportunity to play a deterrent role since it will be unable to step up its nuclear potential in the event of a drastic aggravation of the situation. And who will guarantee that the need for this step will not be provoked by Washington itself, for instance, as a result of its unilateral rejection of ABM restrictions? In contrast to us, the United States retains

its weapons-grade plutonium together with nuclear warheads and the platforms for them.

As a result the "uranium deal" will deprive our heirs of fuel for nuclear power engineering, no alternative to which can yet be seen, leaving in exchange mountains of radioactive waste.

I am sure that Russia does not need such bilateral and trilateral agreements. Their time passed with the collapse of the USSR, when it was possible and necessary to agree with the United States "as equals." With present realities, with the existence of only one superpower, all the others must be concerned for their own self-preservation autonomously or by cooperating. Russia and Ukraine need an independent military technology policy: We cannot do without the minimum necessary number of multiple-warhead silo-based missiles. We must preserve and modernize the existing 50 Ukrainian SS-24 missiles and 200 Russian SS-18 missiles together, helping each other.

I should like our parliaments to find the time to investigate and look into the results promised to us by the results of the Moscow meeting of presidents. I think the way out of the situation which is taking shape lies in the unification of the fraternal Slav and other peoples who have lived together since time immemorial in the face of the now real threat of their "depersonalization" and extinction and the "Europeanization" and "Americanization" of their natural resources. Instead of fueling passions over the nuclear weapons on Ukrainian territory we must render Ukraine aid in ensuring their safeguarding and, if we are asked, in preserving some part of them. After all, we are also in extreme need of Ukraine's assistance in maintaining the combat readiness of the heavy Russian SS-18 missiles.

Russia's all-around cooperation with Ukraine in the military and economic fields is mutually advantageous. Our countries will become richer and stronger as a result. And with the good-neighborliness of powers like ours things will be more peaceful for others too—the peoples know that.

Commentary on DPRK Accepting Nuclear Inspections

SK1602144494 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1000 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Commentary by Kondratyev from the "Focus on Asia" program]

[Text] The DPRK allowed the specialists of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] to inspect nuclear facilities. An IAEA spokesman said so on 15 February: This is good news. The news has been awaited since last March when Pyongyang declared its intention to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and refused international inspections on North Korean nuclear facilities.

I recall that such measures proclaimed by Pyongyang had an effect of a suddenly exploded bomb. Many capitals, particularly in Asia-Pacific countries, expressed worry over the measures. This was because, eventually, nuclear weapons would keep proliferating in the world.

The DPRK was, and is still suspected to have developed nuclear bombs. Such suspicion has been strengthened after Pyongyang took the step. The IAEA applied pressure on North Korea with a view to resuming nuclear inspection.

A sound way of thinking was superior in Pyongyang. The inspection will begin after two or three weeks. It is clear that the decision of the DPRK leadership will exert affirmative influence on the situation on the Korean peninsula and in its surrounding areas.

First of all, it will open a road for North-South dialogue. In addition, the decision will bring about a possibility of proceeding talks between North Korea and the United States and between North Korea and Japan for normalization of relations.

Most importantly, people hope that the result of inspection will remove the suspicion on the intent of the DPRK to develop its own nuclear weapons.

Washington and Seoul have already expressed their support for Pyongyang's agreement on IAEA's nuclear inspection. Pyongyang's agreement will also arouse a similar reaction from the entire world.

Anti-Russian Tension in Estonia 'Unprecedented'

PM1602124794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Feb 94 First Edition p 3

[Leonid Levitskiy report: "Estonia Secretly Issues Its Passports to Russian Citizens...and Accuses Russian Foreign Ministry of Slander"]

[Text] Tallinn—The Estonian State Assembly has adopted a statement-appeal to UN member states. The parliamentarians make a resolute protest against intensifying imperialist trends in Russia's foreign policy, according to which the Baltic states are included in Russia's sphere of influence. Statements made by Russian Government members directed against the Estonian state contravene the provisions of the UN Charter and the CSCE Final Act....

The parliamentary statement was preceded by an Estonian Foreign Ministry statement assessing as slanderous utterances by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev about serious violations of human rights in Estonia and Latvia and ethnic cleansing in these countries....

A sentence spoken by Russian Foreign Ministry Information and Press Department spokesman Mikhail Demurin, to the effect that diplomatic resources alone are not enough to support Russians in CIS and Baltic countries, has provoked indignation among both politicians and diplomats. President Lennart Meri summoned

Russian Ambassador Aleksandr Trofimov and demanded an explanation for the latest statement by the Russian Foreign Ministry leaders. President Meri's press service made the following statement: Estonian reality has nothing to do with the picture that radical-chauvinist politicians in Moscow are trying to paint. The "Russian threat" has rallied the parliament, the president, and the prime minister, who were in sharp conflict with each other until recently. Such anti-Russian tension is perhaps unprecedented in Estonia. It is as though a detonator has been activated to explode a charge of passions that had been stored up for a long time.

The Russian Embassy press service circulated the full text of Mikhail Demurin's statement: On the Foreign Ministry's initiative, a program to protect the interests of ethnic Russians abroad and give them support is being prepared. This envisages special television and radio broadcasting, humanitarian aid, support for Russian business and enterprises in which the Russian-speaking population is employed, collaboration in banking, and customs and economic privileges. That is why, Demurin says, diplomatic efforts and resources are insufficient—decisions and active support from the Russian Government are needed.

Why is the story of the planned program perceived as a threat in Estonia? Surely it is not just because the Russian Government intends to help Russians to settle down more firmly in the countries where they have found themselves at the whim of fate, and does not intend to remove them back to their ethnic homeland?

Political Issues

Kobelev Condemns Zhirinovskiy's 'Hostile' Actions

PM1602174594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Feb 94 First Edition p 2

[Sergey Chugayev report: "Number Two Man in Zhirinovskiy's Party Quits LDPR Faction and Accuses Vladimir Volfovich of Extremism"]

[Text] It is entirely justified to say that the speech by Deputy V. Kobelev was the chief sensation at the plenary session of the State Duma 16 February. The deputy demanded that he be allowed to read out a statement that he and party colleague A. Pronin were quitting the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] faction. Since the author of the statement was the "number two man" in Zhirinovskiy's party, observers believe that it is valid to talk about the possibility of a serious split in this large faction.

Clearly, these considerations also influenced the speech of the LDPR leader and intensified his traditional stridency. Zhirinovskiy told participants in the session that V. Kobelev cannot be considered either a member of the LDPR or a deputy since he has been excluded "by a party decision" from its ranks "for actions incompatible with the status of a deputy and a member of the LDPR." We will strip them of their mandate, Zhirinovskiy stressed, and promised to institute criminal proceedings against the renegades for improper actions allegedly committed by them in the past.

In conversation with your IZVESTIYA correspondent, Deputy Kobelev in turn termed Zhirinovskiy's accusations against him a lie and recalled that the LDPR leader is fond of insulting people. He also did not confirm the information about his expulsion from the party.

"I have left Zhirinovskiy's faction, not the LDPR, because I consider myself a representative in the Duma of the LDPR and not of one man's party," Kobelev stated.

In his opinion, Zhirinovskiy should be condemned for all his actions at the party congress because they are not commensurate with the LDPR program, which envisages neither extremism nor interference in the affairs of other countries. In conclusion, Kobelev promised Zhirinovskiy that if the latter continued his hostile actions against him he would fight fire with fire.

Meanwhile the situation which has developed within the LDPR faction as a result of this goes beyond the bounds of internal factional disputes. After all, the Duma standing orders have yet to be ratified and, consequently, one of the main questions has yet to be resolved, which is: Does a parliamentary faction have the right to recall deputies who entered parliament on the party lists if they "betray" the interests of the faction. It is possible that the scandal within the LDPR faction will influence the solution of this problem in such a way that the recall of deputies will be banned, because there is quite a large number of legislators who have an interest in a split in the ranks of Zhirinovskiy's supporters.

Predicts More Party Desertions

MK1702091094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 17 Feb 94 p 1

[Dmitriy Kuznets report under the "Split" rubric: "Two Deputies Leave Zhirinovskiy. LDPR Leaders Claim the Renegades Have Discredited Themselves"]

[Text] The languishing scandal that began as early as two days ago has finally burst from within the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] faction into the open. Despite contradictory statements of various liberal democrats, we managed to find out the essence: Two deputies—Viktor Kobelev (No. 2 on the party's electoral list) and Aleksandr Pronin—have left the LDPR faction. Kobelev himself says it was his voluntary decision. His opponent, Aleksandr Vengerovskiy, claims that "we have expelled them for actions that discredit the title of deputy." According to Mr. Kobelev, his walkout, which was prompted by personal relations, is a harbinger of a serious split. In fact, another energetic LDPR deputy, Mr. Marychev, said that he supported Viktor Kobelev's actions. "We have the entire St. Petersburg LDPR organization on our side and many other deputies," Mr. Marychev insisted.

In the rebels' view, however, they will be able to stay on in the party and even to counterpoise it to Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. "I have headed the LDPR staff; I know the party from "A" to "Z," and I am a modest man in that regard," Mr. Kobelev said. In his opinion, the mutiny will be supported by a majority of Liberal Democrats, including by the deputies who "came to the Duma to work, not to boost their social status." As for the deputies, this threat does not appear to be ringing hollow. In fact there are a number of deputy groups within the LDPR that are made up of deputies who came to the State Duma in the hope of making their own political career. Naturally, they have been riled by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's contemptuous attitude to parliamentary activity and his bent for presidential elections. Mr. Zhirinovskiy himself does not make any bones about the fact that deputies are only his transient companions and that few of them will be trusted with accompanying him "along the path leading up to power." A group of deputies close to the communists under Mr. Kobelev was the first to have run out of patience.

Viktor Kobelev hopes that Vladimir Zhirinovskiy will "take steps to meet them halfway," disavow his "personal statements and return to the LDPR rules and program." For dwarfish parties that are held together by one leader, splits are a common phenomenon. The LDPR is effectively also a dwarfish party, the only complication being the 59 deputy seats it holds. If

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy manages to find legal grounds for replacing his ambitious colleagues in parliament with trustworthy and devoted people, the "cleanliness of party ranks" will be guaranteed. In principle, an electoral association, such as the LDPR, may recall its defiant deputies. The snag is, however, that the numbers of those disgruntled by Mr. Zhirinovskiy's escapades may grow at the expense of other internal "cliques." Then the LDPR leader will lose his faction's support. Which will not come as a surprise given the peculiarities of Russian electoral legislation, which puts on the verge of a split all parties hastily set up according to God knows what principles.

Scandal Seen Pointing to Split

MK1702090094 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 17 Feb 94 p 1

[Yan Ulanskiy report in the "Scandal" column: "Divorce in the Family of V.V. Zh.," with commentary by Mikhail Shchipanov]

[Text] Speaking at a State Duma plenary session yesterday, Viktor Kobelev, who was number two on the Liberal Democratic Party [LDPR] slate, announced his disagreement with the ways of V.V. Zh. [Zhirinovskiy], as well as his decision to leave the faction. He was joined by another LDPR member, Aleksandr Pronin.

V.V. Zh. would not put up with such an escapade from his associates, saying that the "scoundrels and scumbags Kobelev and Pronin have already been expelled from the party and the election slate for conduct impermissible for a deputy, and also for criminal offenses."

Kobelev, however, dismissed these accusations as false, noting that if V.V. Zh. does not calm down, he (Kobelev) would match each of these strikes with ten. "I remain in the LDPR Supreme Council because the question of my expulsion may be decided only by a party congress." Nonetheless, Kobelev has not so far decided whether he will create his own faction with his supporters in the LDPR, stressing, however, that many of them are ready to follow his suit and leave V.V. Zh.'s faction. According to Kobelev, V.V. Zh.'s extremist tricks, unauthorized by the LDPR congress, do not fit into the party program or rules. Therefore in the very near future one can expect not only the disintegration of the Zhirinovskiy faction, but also a split within the LDP.

Afterword

The departure of two dissident liberals can be the thin end of a wedge that bodes no good for Zhirinovskiy. Indeed, there is nothing sensational in the mere fact of factional desertion: there have been plenty of precedents while small factions and groups, anxious to expand their base, are dead set against the principle: either you are loyal to your party commitment in the State Duma, or put your membership card down on the table. Moreover, to V.V. Zh.'s shame and humiliation, there is no mechanism for recalling a deputy. And therefore all of his threats to throw the fugitive out into the street are just as menacing as this promise to send five Russian divisions to the Balkans.

It is another matter that the great leader envisioned his "flock of falcons" lining up solidly behind him, and now this nuisance. Why? Have they finally seen the light? But this is simply ridiculous: Don't V.V. Zh.'s closest associates already know his true colors? This "recovery of sight," however, can be other than ideological. The people who have come into parliament on the LDP slate have been rumored to express their discontent with V.V. Zh.'s insufficient clout in distributing parliamentary posts and portfolios: apparently he has secured too few comfortable chairs in committees and subcommittees for his associates. Obviously, trust in Zhirinovskiy's omnipotence has been shaken. Moreover, some of his followers began to realize that in the leader's shadows one can easily catch a cold. At the same time, it was clear that the first person to challenge Zhirinovskiy on his own turf could immediately emerge from obscurity into the limelight, launching his own parliamentary career with a noisy scandal which has attracted the attention of the press and colleagues.

The design is fairly accurate. It is only that it speaks about the true motives of Zhirinovskiy's "falcons" a little too plainly.

Cabinet of Ministers Session Postponed

LD1702114994 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told journalists that the expanded session of the Cabinet of Ministers has been postponed until 24 and 25 February, after a decision that it should coincide with the president's annual address.

Yeltsin Sets Up Public Chamber Under President

LD1702084094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0758 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow February 17 TASS—Boris Yeltsin issued a decision on Thursday to set up a public chamber under the Russian president. In compliance with this document, this body will be "based on the public chamber of the constitutional conference".

The presidential press service notes in its report that the public chamber under the Russian president will be set up to ensure cooperation between the federal bodies of executive power in the Russian Federation and mass organisations to prepare decisions by the Russian president and government on important social and political issues, taking into account public opinion.

The president's decision approves regulations on the operation of this body.

Statute Published

LD1702113894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0940 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Statute on the Public Chamber Under the President of the Russian Federation

1. The Public Chamber under the president of the Russian Federation (henceforth—the Public Chamber) is a consultative body within which necessary political consultations on a broad range of issues of public significance are conducted with the aim of ensuring collaboration between the bodies of executive authority of the Russian Federation and public associations, of preparing decisions of the president of the Russian Federation and the government of the Russian Federation on vital social and political issues while taking public opinion into account, and of creating a mechanism for feedback between public associations and the bodies of state power.

2. The main area of activity of the Public Chamber is to draw up recommendations on political, legal, and socio-economic matters.

3. The Public Chamber is composed of representatives of political parties, mass movements, youth and other public organizations, entrepreneurial associations and religious denominations registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation, and representatives of local self-government organizations and all-Russian trade unions.

4. To join the Public Chamber, the following are required: a copy of the registration certificate of the relevant association from the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation and an extract from the decision of the ruling body of the relevant association competent to determine the candidacy of its representative in the Public Chamber.

5. There should not be more than 250 public associations represented in the Public Chamber. The composition of the Public Chamber can be changed by a joint decision of the Council of the Public Chamber (point 13 of this statute) and representatives of the administration of the president of the Russian Federation.

6. The representative of a public association may be replaced on presentation of a copy of the decision by the heads of the relevant association competent to choose a candidate to represent it in the Public Chamber.

7. The Public Chamber meets in sessions at which issues submitted by the Russian Federation president, or supported by no fewer than a quarter of the organizations represented on the Public Committee, are discussed.

8. There are to be regular sessions of the Public Chamber once a month, every third Saturday.

9. The Russian Federation president calls extraordinary sessions of the Public Chamber.

10. Cochairs appointed by the president of the Russian Federation are to head the sessions of the Public Chamber. The Public Chamber may propose to the president of the Russian Federation candidates for the post of cochair.

11. The recommendations of the Public Chamber are adopted by the majority vote of those at the session, but the opinion of the minority is registered if it is supported by no fewer than one-fifth of those present. Recommendations may only be sent to the president of the Russian Federation after being signed by the cochair of the session.

12. The president of the Russian Federation or individuals authorized by him report on the decision of the president of the Russian Federation regarding the recommendations adopted by the Public Chamber.

13. A council consisting of 15 people from representative public organizations is to be formed to coordinate the work of the Public Chamber during the intervals between sessions.

14. Permanent working groups can be formed related to the main directions in the activity of the Public Chamber within its framework.

15. Temporary working groups can be formed for drawing up and studying specific questions within the framework of the Public Chamber.

16. Experts may be involved in the work of the Public Chamber.

17. An annual report will be prepared by the cochairmen on the results of the Public Chamber's work, for submission to the president of the Russian Federation.

18. The activity of the Public Chamber is provided for by the administration of the president of the Russian Federation.

19. Changes may be introduced into the current provision in accordance with the instruction of the Russian Federation president.

20. The Public Chamber ceases its activity on the decision of the Russian president.

Probe of May Demonstration Completed

LD1602215394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1952 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow February 16 TASS—An investigation into the May 1 disturbances in Moscow has been completed. Criminal proceedings were instituted against 11 men who took part in the May 1 demonstration, the Russian "Vesti" television programme reported on Wednesday.

Nine of them face charges envisaged by Article 79 of the criminal code of the Russian Federation—participation

in mass disturbances. If court finds them guilty they will be sentenced to imprisonment from 2 to 15 years.

According to preliminary reports, the investigation established that leader of the "Labour Russia" Movement Viktor Anpilov, leader of the National Salvation Front Ilya Konstantinov and leader of the "Officers' Union" Stanislav Terekhov were initiators of mass disturbances in Moscow on May 1, 1993. An investigation into their activities on May 1 is being conducted separately.

The accused were not taken into custody but signed a document pledging not to leave Moscow.

On May 1, 1993 representatives of opposition movements organised an unsanctioned rally on Leninskiy Prospekt in Moscow which resulted in clashes with law enforcement bodies. During street-fighting one policeman was killed and many people were injured.

Press Officer on Journalists' Access to Meetings

LD1602205294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1739 GMT 16 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow February 16 TASS—Russian Government Press Officer Valentin Sergeyev told a press conference in the Russian-American Information Centre today that the restriction of access to government meetings for journalists was a temporary measure caused by organisational difficulties associated with the moving of the government from Staraya Square to the "White House", the former seat of the disbanded Russian Parliament. Sergeyev rejected accusations of deliberate blocking of the press.

He assured journalists that a new press centre, seating 150 reporters, will open in the government's new headquarters in two weeks.

He promised to help journalists in arranging interviews with cabinet ministers, but said government presidium meetings were not a show, and will be accessible only to correspondents of federal news agencies and state television.

Sergeyev stressed that the government was interested, as never before, in making its decisions, popular or otherwise, known and understandable to the people. He complained that the press was keen on criticising the government and was reluctant to promote educational publications about its activity.

PRAVDA President Rejects Criticism

PM1602161994 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Feb 94 p 1

[Article by Yiannis Yiannikos, president of PRAVDA International joint stock company: "We Respect PRAVDA's Traditions"]

[Excerpts] Recently there has been a lot of talk and many rumors surrounding PRAVDA and our company. So I cannot keep quiet and want to share with readers my view of what has happened.

We came to PRAVDA as friends. We came about two years ago when complete closure threatened the newspaper because of financial difficulties. Our company helped the editorial office to settle its debts, and as a result of our cooperation PRAVDA began to be published regularly, five times a week again instead of three. [passage omitted]

We have always respect, continue to respect, and will respect PRAVDA's traditions. Therefore we did not interfere before in either the creative process or the political line of the newspaper and we shall not do so in the future. Incidentally, the stories in some publications that someone was dismissed by the joint stock company directors' council for his political convictions is blatant slander. The company does not engage in such matters at all. The terms of our cooperation are enshrined in the contract: democracy and pluralism. We realize that we are dealing with an opposition newspaper but a genuine opposition is always creative because it does not destroy the country but helps the people to resolve their important problems.

But when the newspaper's new chief editor was elected in October the atmosphere at the PRAVDA International joint stock company changed drastically. For us it was a complete surprise: V. Linnik had been on the joint stock company directors' council for nearly two years and in contrast to G. Seleznev and A. Ilin he invariably supported any proposal of ours. Having become chief editor he and some of his supporters steered a course toward destroying the joint stock company, ruining the cooperation to which they had previously been loyal, and reneguing on agreements and commitments, including those backed by V. Linnik's signature (and I respect people who do not betray the promise they have made). For that they even agreed to stop PRAVDA's production. A campaign of lies and slander began.

Our relations of cooperation with the most esteemed Russian newspaper are now being restored. On 4 February this year a meeting of the editorial collective confirmed that the newspaper will be published within the framework of the PRAVDA International joint stock company. It will be published regularly and reach all subscribers, wherever they may live. It has already been decided to ensure stable and permanent financing for PRAVDA's printing. I hope that in the very near future the newspaper's staffers will have no complaints about their wages either. The statements issued in recent weeks that the Russian PRAVDA International company is bankrupts and has no money are completely untrue. Incidentally, we are now having to pay V. Linnik's debts too.

There is a great deal of speculation on the subject of whether PRAVDA has become a Greek newspaper. I

have been investing money in it for about two years but never for a single day has it ceased to be a Russian publication concerned for the destiny of its own country?! And the permanent staff of PRAVDA International include about 200 Russian citizens and just one Greek—the financial director of the joint stock company. It is clear that he cannot deal with the newspaper's creative business. His main concern is normal financing for PRAVDA.

I am reproached for refusing any contacts with Russian businessman and not wanting their cooperation in the company which we have created in conjunction with PRAVDA. That is utterly untrue. With the approval of the majority of PRAVDA employees substantial business contracts are now being concluded with major Russian entrepreneurs. Their aim is to elaborate long-term programs of cooperation for the benefit of PRAVDA, PRAVDA employees, and readers. I think they will end successfully.

I realize that my PRAVDA friends are working in complex conditions and that it is hard for PRAVDA readers to live. I respect those who make the newspaper and those at whom it is aimed. I want to help our common cause of peace, the friendship of the peoples, and the attainment of people's prosperity.

Publication of GLASNOST To Resume

LD1602160494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1333 GMT 16 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow February 16 TASS—The publication of the weekly GLASNOST has been resumed. The weekly was funded by the former Central Committee of the CPSU. Its publication was stopped by the order of the former Ministry of the Press and Information of the Russian Federation after the events of August 3-4 last year. Late in January the court annulled the ministry's decision, stating that the weekly had not been published from September 9 and so could not have been involved directly in the bloody events in Moscow.

The publication founded by the work collective of the editorial office has been renewed as an "all-union political weekly", Alexey Veretennikov, assistant editor of GLASNOST, told ITAR-TASS. The weekly has not changed its political positions. It declares "for the restoration of the USSR and unification of the communist parties". The assistant editor said that among contributors to the publication are Anatoliy Lukyanov, Oleg Shenin, Nikolay Ryzhkov.

Think Tank Addresses Fight Against Mobsters

PM2701091594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Jan 94 First Edition pp 1,2

[Unattributed report on memorandum on organized crime drawn up by Socioeconomic Policy Analysis Center under president's administration: "Russian Mafia Compiling Dossier on Major Officials and Politicians"]

[Text] IZVESTIYA has a copy of a memorandum drawn up by the Socioeconomic Policy Analysis Center under the Russian Federation president's administration, which is headed by Petr Filippov. The document is called "Organized Crime and the Prospects of National Socialists Coming to Power in Russia."

It says, in particular, that the growth of organized crime, which is interwined with the Internal Affairs Ministry organs and local executive authorities, threatens Russia's political and economic development and creates real conditions for national socialists to come to power. In Russian cities and rayon centers literally all owners of stalls, stores, cafes, and restaurants pay money to bandit groups. All market vendors and car importers pay them money. Some 70-80 percent of privatized enterprises and commercial banks have been victims of extortion of late. The size of the payment (a kind of tax benefiting bandit groupings and corrupt officials) is 10-20 percent of the turnover, which often exceeds the enterprise's final profits.

Bandit formations have informers everywhere in the militia organs, traffic police, and banks. According to entrepreneurs in Tver, a vehicle will be stopped by racketeers if they get word from a traffic police checkpoint that it is carrying a valuable load.

Vladimir administration leaders confirmed that attempts to carry out surprise searches of bandit groupings' headquarters were blocked because they had been alerted through the traffic police-Internal Affairs Ministry system. In Moscow transport inspectors are unable to monitor the work of mobile service stations because the illegal traders are alerted by traffic police personnel.

In Kazan only bandits are allowed to drive foreign cars, Volgas, and Zhiguli-9's. Other citizens have these cars taken away from them. The same rule has applied for some time in St. Petersburg too. Bandit groupings have started to demand money from farmers, market gardeners, and inhabitants of suburban settlements in Kazan. A similar practice is now being introduced in the Moscow region.

In Tver entrepreneurs are required to obtain permission from the leaders of bandit groupings to set up a stall or open a store. Only with their consent will the local authorities issue licenses. Independent entrepreneurs have been driven out of some areas of activity altogether, since organized crime is financing on very favorable terms (a very large interest-free loan, for example) young people who are prepared to cooperate. As a result they have a significant advantage over their competitors (of course, when they achieve some success they surrender a large part of the profit as payment for the credit). Incidentally, this distingishes the situation in our country from the situation in Western Europe and the United States: There organized crime controls only

"criminal" areas of activity, such as prostitution, the drugs trade, and gambling. In Russia organized crime controls all types of activity.

The extra tax paid to the bandits and the artificial restrictions on business activity for the purpose of obtaining massive monopoly profits lead to price rises of 20-30 percent. The population's living standards fall accordingly.

The memorandum notes that organized crime's accumulation of capital during 1991-1993 has been vast. Some of it is transferred abroad through banking structures (under threat of physical violence), but this does not save the bank managers. They are eliminated because they know about the secret deposits. Bankers have the highest death rate among entrepreneurs.

In Russian cities a large class of young hoods has developed, whose sole function is racketeering and obtaining money. In St. Petersburg there are tens of thousands of these hoods, 500 of whom are hardened criminals. They all have high incomes and drive foreign cars. They take over restaurants and cafes and do not allow ordinary mortals into them.

The boom in organized crime is closely linked to the economic status of entrepreneurs and privatized enterprises. The extremely intricate tax system that exists at the moment does not encourage enterprises to increase profits. For instance, according to the calculations of M. Kabakov, director of the machine building plant named for Kalinin, the plant's doubling of its profits through drastic economies and manpower cuts will only increase net profits by two percent. Under the present tax system an entrepreneur who owns a distillery can only ensure 11-percent profitability, given an inflation level of 1,000 percent per year. Entrepreneurs are forced to conceal income. Bandit groups find out about these things through agents and tell the entrepreneurs that if they do not pay them money they will be "handed over" to the tax police. The entrepreneurs reckon, not unreasonably, that it is better and safer to pay the bandits.

In the banking sphere centralized credits distributed outside the tender system are the economic basis of organized crime. Some 10-20 percent of the cash earned on commission is taken in exchange for these credits. The abandonment of targeted credits would make it possible to eliminate the economic basis of organized crime.

All the aforesaid, the memorandum says, means that an entire generation is growing up for whom the situation is normal and who, when in difficulty, turn not to the official authorities, but to the unofficial authorities. These people will sooner hire killers to punish a partner who has gone wrong than go to the courts or seek arbitration.

The Analysis Center concludes that if this continues, we may arrive at a situation similar to that in Latin America or, say, Italy, where policy is actually determined not by government or parliament, but by organized crime. In particular, there is no longer any doubt that the leaders of Russian organized crime are compiling a meticulous dossier on all major officials and politicians. In these conditions Zhirinovskiy's populist promises to establish strict order could attract tens of millions of Russians and—which would be particularly dangerous—hundreds of thousands of entrepreneurs to the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] banners. A failure to take decisive steps to remove the economic roots of crime and provide the laws to combat organized crime amd the absence of political will in the fight against organized crime could bring the national socialists to power during the 1996 presidential elections.

What needs to be done, in the analysts' opinion? Practice shows that it is futile to depend on local militia departments to combat organized crime. Informers give the bandits several days' notice of impending raids so they can lie low. Only the creation of well equipped special formations, reporting direct to the president and located outside cities, will make for an effective fight against organized crime. These formations would have access to information stored in Internal Affairs Ministry organs.

According to experts, in order to arrest the organizers, leaders, and "godfathers" of bandit groupings in a city such as St. Petersburg all you need is special formations numbering 100 men. These detachments must have extensive rights (for example, preventive detention for a period of several months) and major privileges, in particular: a large salary ($250-300 as of December 1993), an official apartment, of which the occupant automatically becomes owner on his retirement, compulsory life insurance, and so on. If evidence of corruption comes to light the employee will be automatically sacked and stripped of all privileges. These detachments should not include anyone who has served in the Internal Affairs Ministry or KGB (Security Ministry) in the past, but they should be given access to all the information collected by these departments. At the same time, a committee should be set up along the lines of the U.S. FBI. Its employees would monitor certain regions, with frequent changes of personnel.

If such structures were created, organized crime's current freedom from punishment would rebound on it, since at the present time its members have no fears and their names are well known in every militia station.

Internal Affairs Ministry personnel could be drafted in from from other cities for use in operations to put down organized crime. Having no links with organized crime in that particular city, they would be able to assist the president's special detachments. You can catch two or three members of bandit groupings these days by raiding restaurants or cafes. Practically all of them carry illegal weapons or they could be charged on other grounds. Since the organization of bandit groupings depends entirely on their leaders, the preventive detention of them for a period of several months and the severing of links with informers in Internal Affairs Ministry organs

and the local administration will destroy the bandit groups. This is evidenced by the fact that even if a leader goes on "leave" for a month the bandit grouping is paralyzed.

Changes must be made to the Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes providing the organs combating organized crime with wider rights. They should be given the right to preventively detain people suspected of involvement in organized crime for a period of up to three months without charge. Tax legislation should be radically reformed, with the emphasis switching to the taxation of resources and, above all, land. We should dramatically curtail the use of the mechanism of quotas and licenses, switching to the regulation of foreign economic relations through duties. The granting of targeted credits should be abandoned. We must switch to the allocation of Russian Central Bank credits on a competitive basis.

Economic Issues

Ministry Proposes Economic Adjustments

LD1502200094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1651 GMT 15 Feb 94

[Text] Russia's Economics Ministry on Tuesday [15 February] submitted to the government an analysis of the economic situation in the country and proposals for its improvement.

The ministry's main conclusion is that "no radical, strategic changes should be made in the government's course," senior ministry official Mikhail Kopeikin told Interfax. But more emphasis should be put in the 1993-95 government program on social security measures, he said. Those proposals "largely correspond to what is suggested by Academicians Leonid Abalkin, Stanislav Shatalin and others," although the Economics Ministry disagrees with those who argue that the social security policy should be set out in the first section of the program and all further changes should depend on it, Kopeikin said. "We are against changing the structure of the government program," he said.

The social security measures proposed by the Economics Ministry include penalties for the violation of minimum social security guarantees, concrete measures to help the poorer population strata and the involvement of nongovernmental bodies in the financing of the social security policy.

The ministry also stands for tighter state control of the economy, Kopeikin said.

He said he was a member of a group, formed recently and headed by Deputy Economics Minister Sergei Vasilyev, which was working on a list of priority financial, economic, social security and other measures to be taken within the next two to three months. All proposals made by the group, which had its first sitting on February 12, would be sent to the prime minister, Kopeikin said.

Economy Ministry Sets Forth Guidelines

LD1702113694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1041 GMT 17 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Galkin]

[Text] Moscow February 17 TASS—The Russian national economy minister plans to contain the federal budget deficit at 5-6 percent of the Gross Domestic Product in 1994 as against 11 percent in 1993, and bring down the inflation rate to 8-10 percent a month by end of year from more than 22 percent in January, according to Deputy Minister Yakov Urinson. Urinson said that if the plan worked, capital investments would increase, the production slump would halt and stabilization would begin along with the improvement of the living standards.

The ministry leaders are now "airing" their plans for 1994 in the economic circles in a bid to drum up support for further market reforms and a moderately tough financial and monetary policy.

The ministry vows support to the most vulnerable groups of the population by fixing general spending on public needs at 16 percent of the Gross Domestic Product. The exact amount will depend on revenues. To ensure these, the ministry intends to preserve the present taxation system, whose stability and predictability is expected to make it easier for the entrepreneurs to adapt, and the tax agencies to levy taxes in full measure. Urinson said this move can hardly be popular with most industrialists and entrepreneurs, who believe that high taxes are pernicious to any production. The deputy minister, on the contrary, believes that the development of production expands the taxable base and heaps up the revenues.

Last year, 17 percent of all Russian enterprises ended the year in the black, he said. They drained the federal budget, inflated its deficit and "froze" restructuring. Much has to be done to pull them out from under the budget umbrella and make them use their production potential to meet market demand. Some of them may end up in bankruptcy, while others, particularly those of special economic or public importance, will have to be helped out. This applies primarily to the most important coal and metallurgical enterprises and fertilizer producers.

Restructuring is closely linked to the liquidation of monopolies which are hampering the development of market relations and deflect state resources. As an example, considerable resources allocated to the agroindustrial sector never reach farmers but are intercepted by processors of farm produce, suppliers of means of production, banks and retailers, whose monopoly positions enable them to "redistribute" resources in their own favour.

Program Seeks To Aid Russians Outside Federation

PM1602164394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Feb 94 First Edition p 1

[Yevgeniy Bay report: "Moscow Has Drafted Program for Protection of 30 Million Russians in Former Union Republics"]

[Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry has drawn up an extensive program to protect the interests and support more than 30 million ethnic Russians living outside the Russian Federation.

As Teymuraz Ramishvili, chief of the Foreign Ministry's International Humanitarian Cooperation and Human Rights Administration and an author of the program, told IZVESTIYA, this is a program designed for a period of years.

The program consists of three sections envisaging political, economic, and cultural measures. The section on the creation of the institution of dual citizenship stands out in particular. This is the main theme at bilateral talks on the rights of Russian-speaking minorities in the former republics.

The point on the creation of a special radio station, a TV channel, and a press organ which would unite the whole Russian community abroad is noteworthy. The program envisages help in preserving the old and opening new Russian universities, institutes, and high schools, and in funding Russian schools and theaters.

In the event of ethnic conflicts or any acute aggravation of the situation in any particular region it is proposed to elaborate a mechanism for the emergency evacuation of Russians and the provision of assistance to refugees and migrants in extreme circumstances.

A special role in the protection of Russians will be played by Russia's economic ties with the various states of the CIS. It is planned to impose rigorous restrictions on the export of Russian raw materials and energy sources to countries where the rights of ethnic Russians are violated. One point speaks about the establishment of a continuous, technically equipped state and customs border with those states.

In the allocation by Russia of upcoming credits to states of the former USSR it will be specially stipulated that a certain proportion of the resources in question (20-30 percent) must be used for the development of Russian education, language, and other needs of the Russian diaspora.

Teymuraz Ramishvili acknowledges that the program will work only if budget financing is found for it. According to preliminary estimates it will cost around 3 trillion rubles. Assistance from the private sector is a matter for the future, although that sector could be given an interest in the project through the generally accepted practice of a tax concession in exchange for philanthropic activity.

The authors of the plan hope that, despite the enormous financial difficulties, the program will be adopted as early as the second quarter of this year.

Fedorov Questions Government Reform Strategy

PM1502115394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Feb 94 First Edition p 2

[Article by State Duma Deputy Boris Fedorov: "The Government Has Been at a Standstill for Two Months. Which Way Will It Go?"]

[Text] It is exactly two months since the elections. The first results can be summed up. The main one is that for two months now the government has been undergoing reorganization, rushing about aimlessly, and essentially doing no work. Not a single decision that could be described, even if you stretch the point, as reformist has been adopted.

On the other hand we have had a reorganization which dragged out over many weeks and culminated in the departure of three people and the demotion of Shokhin and Shakhray. Some members of the "new" government have been beating their breasts for weeks and loudly trying to persuade everybody, themselves included, that they are reformers. Others are saying day in, day out that they will not wind up but will deepen and expand the reforms. At one moment the goal is to combat inflation, at the next it is to repay debts. It is symptomatic that Soskovets and Grachev in concert are now criticizing A. Zaveryukha.

The premier did not think that by "reacting" to the election results by making gestures toward the sectorial lobbies he would be opening a "Pandora's box" whereby a wave of demands would threaten to sweep aside absolutely everything. Many people have now gone crazy on hearing talk of "payment of debts." They have decided: The time has come, we must extract everything we are entitled to and more. Coal industry workers, oil industry workers, agrarian workers, and communications workers are threatening to strike. Give us mutual offsetting of debts and indexation of circulating capital, cheap loans and selective support for bankrupts, the country must feed agrarian workers!

The government is running scared. On the one hand, the reaction to the government changes is forcing it to swear loyalty to the former course. On the other, its instincts are pushing it in the other direction. The debt problem caused by the lack of financial discipline, the constant adoption of more and more new expenditure decisions, and the lack of the political will to cancel nonpriority spending is gradually finding expression in an orgy of hysterical demands, and beneath the hail of demands Moscow is losing its ability to calculate and is hoping to change things by means of partial steps. The agrarian

lobby had only to flex its muscle and the decision on duties was revoked. **They are promising everything to everyone, but they are afraid to deliver.**

The delay in making public the guidelines of the government's economic policy, the frantic conferences and statements—all this is out of place and going on for an intolerably long time. The diagnosis is clear: **The government has no clear line, has lost its bearings, and is aimlessly rushing about.**

The quarterly session of the enlarged government that has been postponed until 24 February will resolve nothing. Clearly, they are expecting a speech by the president so as not to make fools of themselves. But only the submission of the budget to the Duma will dispel the doubts. Unless they make fools of us.

The government can save face only if it obtains results that are better than those in 1993. Initial reports about the budget have not increased optimism: expenditure of around 170 trillion rubles [R] and income of R120 trillion. Given that a month ago the Finance Ministry was estimating income at R80-90 trillion, there is a clear attempt to embellish the picture. It is doubtful that the government will be able to approve expenditure of R170 trillion unless the measures to revoke expenditure decisions that have been proposed for seven months are taken. Is there the political will for this?

In reality it is a question of a deficit not of R50 trillion, but of R100 trillion, which will destroy the economy. Add to that the so-called united monetary system with Belarus and other countries, and financial disaster is inevitable. If the figures are "massaged" for the IMF and you and me, the result will be more chronic underpayments from the budget. We should also fear methods of decreasing the deficit like the sale of precious metals and gems by the government to the Central Bank without notifying parliament and the channeling of so-called Central Bank "profits" into budget needs—all this is sheer emission, the deficit figures go down but inflation increases.

The new year began with the loss of one-third of the Central Bank's currency reserves in order to maintain the ruble exchange rate for purely political purposes—to prove that the departure of one or two people does not mean a U-turn. That way it won't be long before all the reserves have been wasted and then an exchange rate fixed, which is something they are already talking about.

The government should prove its social orientation by setting tough targets for economic parameters such as inflation, the ruble exchange rate, the population's real income, average wages in dollar terms, real retail trade turnover, housing construction, and food consumption. These indicators were better in 1993 than they were in 1992, and they are the ones that determine living standards and social orientation. Is the government prepared to give specific pledges and to report back in January 1995? It remains only to place your bet.

By the beginning of 1994 a situation had emerged where it had become impossible to move forward with the same "quality" of government. It was even impossible to hold on to the position that had been achieved—it was possible only to lose ground. Because a reorganization had been launched that substantially worsened the "quality," a U-turn was inevitable. The premier was scarcely seeking this, but a fundamentally new situation emerged.

There is **no alternative** to the policy pursued in 1993. Having said that, there is a need for greater consistency and unity on the part of the government and the whole of the executive branch. It is especially sad to hear academicians whom the premier's volte-face has roused to produce another opus setting out "conceptual approaches" but lacking specific prescriptions or any hint of knowledge of the real state of affairs. Does this stem more from a sense of being unwanted or from honest delusion?

What is happening today was probably inevitable. The proud "red directors" probably have to have an opportunity to show everybody what they are actually capable of. Otherwise the myth that there is a real alternative, that there is an alternative road to the market whereby you can ignore macroeconomic realities and stage pseudocommunist experiments on living people, will remain forever.

My hope is pinned on the president. I do not believe that B. Yeltsin, who began real political and economic reforms after 70 years of stagnation, can turn back. But I would like to believe that the prime minister, who for a year pursued, albeit inconsistently, a particular course, also will not venture to head for disaster. It is better to think again in time than to carry out more experiments on Russia.

Nuclear Plant Reduces Power Output Due to Debt

LD1602172694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1416 GMT 16 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Svetlana Ivanova]

[Text] St.Petersburg February 16 TASS—Since Wednesday the yield of the Leningradskaya nuclear power plant near St. Petersburg will be reduced by 50 per cent. Three reactors are being discharged, but even under such a fuel-saving regime the station's fuel reserves may run out in three months.

The plant has no money to buy fuel, because power consumers do not pay their debts. Moreover, the "Electrostal" works which produced nuclear fuel for the plant also halted lines—as its debtors do not pay either.

The power plant from now on will be able to supply energy only to St. Petersburg and its region, while other consumers situated on a vast territory of the northwestern part of Russia are likely to face energy shortages very soon.

It is for the second time this year when the station is on the verge of stoppage. Early in January it warned it may shut down reactors as it had no money to buy fuel. Two days later it received four billion roubles (about three million dollars) out of the total 34-billion rouble debt from its clients.

The plant's administration, however, warned that the four billion roubles would not last for long.

Federal Assembly

Duma Deputies Debate Amnesty for Coup Plotters

LD1602133494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1303 GMT 16 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow February 16 TASS—The first round of the debate by the State Duma (lower house of the Russian parliament) of the Russian president's draft decision on amnesty in connection with the adoption of the Russian Constitution ended in a deadlock.

Several votes on various draft decisions by the Duma showed that the overwhelming majority of legislators rejected the president's draft in the form it was submitted.

Quite a number of critical remarks were levelled at the presidential document during the debate. Some deputies claimed that the amnesty in question will aggravate the situation in the country, although data from Interior Ministry specialists refuted these claims.

However, the prevailing demand was to divide amnesty into criminal and politico-economic and to adopt two documents: the presidential draft concerning criminal wrong-doings and the Duma's draft on political amnesty as well as amnesty to people convicted for economic crimes.

"It was clear from the very beginning for the legislation committee that the president's initiative would not pass as it is," its Chairman Vladimir Isakov said at the end of the morning session.

In Isakov's opinion, "lawmakers are now facing an alternative of whether to reject the presidential draft completely or amend it, taking two decisions: on criminal and political amnesties," he added.

A two-hour interval has been announced in the Duma sessions. Factions will hold consultations to hammer out new draft decisions of the lower chamber. These drafts will be put to vote at the evening session.

Under a political amnesty for the sake of national reconciliation, lawmakers understand, above all, an amnesty to people involved in the events of August 19 and 21, 1991, May 1 and October 3-4, 1993.

Some claim that the question on amnesty to participants in the October events may be raised only after the parliamentary commission on their investigation completes its work.

The presidential draft decision has already been published in the press. In the opinion of many deputies this fact makes them hostages of the present situation.

"If we adopt the document, we'll be accused of rampant crime. If we reject the document, mass riots will take place in penitentiaries. The blame will be again laid at the Duma's door," said legislator Vassiliy Lipitsky.

Deputies Reject Amnesty Proposal

LD1702101394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0927 GMT 17 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow February 17 TASS—The Russian State Duma voted down a proposal of the Liberal Democratic Party [of Russia, LDPR] of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy to declare an amnesty to organisers of the 1991 abortive Soviet coup, of the October 1993 opposition armed revolt in Moscow and of the bloodshed caused by hard-line opposition during May Day demonstration last year.

Member of the LDP Viktor Vishnyakov told lawmakers that the 1991 coup organisers are being tried "for nothing" as, according to him "they protected the Constitution" and their only fault was the abuse of office. The 1991 coup plotters include several former Soviet top officials, two of who were elected to the new parliament.

Vishnyakov said that it is hard to legally assess the May 1 developments and added that the clash between police and hard-line demonstrators was "a provocation from police".

The main organisers of the bloodshed, according to investigators, are die hard opposition members Viktor Anpilov and Ilya Konstantinov, both of who were arrested after the October armed revolt in Moscow.

Dwelling on the October events, Vishnyakov said he would not like to "lose time in order to provide a legal assessment" of the developments. He proposed to first declare an amnesty to the organisers and then probe the reasons of the standoff which ended when tanks sent by President Boris Yeltsin pounded the headquarters of the opposition.

The main culprits of the October events are former Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy, former parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov and former Security Minister Viktor Barannikov.

Although the Duma voted down the proposal of the LDP, it was forwarded, together with other versions of

the amnesty, to the parliamentary committees on legislation and legal reform and on security and defence for improval. [sentence as heard]

Duma Committee To Investigate Sep-Oct Events

LD1602215994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1914 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] The State Duma, the lower house of the Russian parliament, has set up a commission to investigate the events of September 21-October 4, 1993.

The commission's 11 members represent all parliamentary groups. It includes Yuriy Vlasov from the Russian Path group and Stanislav Govorukhin from the Democratic Party group.

Meanwhile, the Liberal Democratic Party group drafted a resolution entitled "The Political and Economic Amnesty in Connection with the Adoption of the Constitution of the Russian Federation," which would quash the prosecution of all those involved in the attempted coup of August 1991, the Moscow riots of May 1, 1993, and the conservative revolt of October 3-4, 1993. The draft will be put before the State Duma on Thursday.

The house took no decision on Wednesday on an amnesty resolution proposed by President Boris Yeltsin.

Poltoranin Calls For State Control of TV, Radio

LD1602210394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1705 GMT 16 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow February 16 TASS—The state should control at least two television and radio broadcasting companies—Ostankino and Russian, according to Mikhail Poltoranin, the former federal information centre chief, who spoke in the State Duma today. He said the country's mass media are on the decline and Russia is facing the possible loss of its national television, because "it costs three trillion roubles a year, and the Finance Ministry wants to drop it from the budget".

Poltoranin, who is now heading the House Committee on Information Policy and Communications, said a law on television is being drafted, and hearings about the economic situation of the mass media will be held in the parliament at the end of February.

Poltoranin said parliamentary correspondents are deprived of any possibility to cover the activity of the State Duma because the Duma Council, factions, groups and committees have developed a practice of meeting behind closed doors. Journalists are therefore unable to get any first-hand information.

The Duma decided to consider a draft federal law "on the coverage of the activity of the bodies of state authority of the Russian Federation by the mass media" before March 21, 1994.

Proceedings May Be Carried on Existing TV Programs

MK1602114094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 16 Feb 94 p 2

[Dmitriy Kuznets report under the "Air Time" rubric: "Deputies Want Their TV Again. Mikhail Poltoranin Is Ready To Give Them Other Channels' Programs"]

[Text] The State Duma has also taken to heart "the questions of objective coverage" that used to concern the Supreme Soviet. The Committee for Information Policy and Communications under Mikhail Poltoranin has drawn up a draft State Duma decree designed to resolve the problem of television coverage of the State Duma's activity. In order to persuade the deputies to approve the decree, Mr. Poltoranin has promised them that a corresponding law will be enacted by 21 March. In addition, the deputies have been offered as a present one-third of the entire capacity of the "RTV-Parliament" complex left from the Supreme Soviet. The government and the Federation Council will also take over one-third each.

These abstract projects do not suit the deputies, however, who want to make their own television program. Mr. Poltoranin's committee has suggested that before the law is enacted they use a "provisional broadcasting schedule." The schedule, Mikhail Poltoranin said, which has already been approved by chiefs of the "Russia" and "Ostankino" channels, will give the deputies a good half of political programs. Aside from reports on the State Duma's deliberations on the "Russia" channel every Friday and daily reports in the "Vesti" and "Novosti" programs, it is planned to oblige other programs, such as "How We Are Going To Live," "Sirs-Comrades," "A Dialogue Live," and "The Peasants' Question," to give the floor to deputies, and also to have programs such as "Details," "Man and the Law," and so forth, feature "burning reports."

It is possible that the deputies will accept so "generous" a present from Mr. Poltoranin today. The chairman of the Committee for Information Policy and Communications, however, has not offered them anything new. It should be noted that even the fact that the television programs are state-owned does not entitle the State Duma to interfere in their authors' activity. This does not seem to be of great concern to Deputy Mikhail Poltoranin, who is trying to push a pig in a poke on his colleagues.

State Duma members themselves, as they urge "objective coverage," to all appearances will accept air time in other people's programs without any guarantees, meanwhile drafting a law on how their own activity should be

covered. This process may drag on and on, so television viewers are for the time being insured against a torrent of State Duma broadcasts.

Duma Discusses, Officials Comment on Tatarstan Treaty

LD1602215494 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Russia's political future was discussed today at a meeting of the State Duma. Some of the fundamental questions which were raised again revealed a rather sharp divergence of views.

[Sergey Suntsov] It was only yesterday that the treaty was signed with Tatarstan on delimiting the powers of the center but today deputy Sergey Baburin introduced a proposal—true, it was not passed—to examine it at a session of the Duma since he saw in the treaty a threat to the territorial integrity of Russia.

[Begin Baburin recording] As a lawyer I cannot understand how necessary and justified it is to sign a treaty between a state as a whole and a part of that state. [end recording]

[Suntsov] Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of the Communist Party, expressed the opinion, although cautiously—for no one has yet read the treaty—that he suspects a departure from federation toward confederation. Sergey Shakhray noted in this connection:

[Begin Shakhray recording] The new Constitution of the Russian Federation and the Federation Treaty created the legal and methodological opportunity for the treaty. [end recording]

[Suntsov] Shakhray stressed that the treaty puts an end to a dangerous intrastate conflict. It was the result of three years of talks and was backed up by 11 intergovernmental agreements and also by a mechanism for implementing it which take account of the specific features of the region. It seems that the treaty with Tatarstan will become a subject of discussion at parliamentary hearings.

The draft decision on the coverage of the Duma's activities in the mass media caused a storm of activity. The essence of Mikhail Poltoranin's speech was that the Duma cannot impose its programs on independent publications. The essence of the majority of the speeches came down to one thing: The mass media are carrying out a political instruction and have gone out of control. It was proposed that journalists should be ordered whom to interview and what to show. A representative of the Communist Party, for example, who sensibly assessed this as an impermissible attempt at applying pressure, ended with a doleful proposal: simply to remove the accreditation of the journalists of those publications which incorrectly cover the work of the Duma. It was decided by 21 March to prepare a law on coverage of the activity of state organs of power in the state-owned mass media.

The draft presidential decision on an amnesty in connection with the adoption of the new Constitution did not receive support from the deputies. As Aleksandr Yakovlev, the president's representative, noted, the amnesty would cover no more than 20,000 prisoners who were of no danger to society. Many speakers demanded that the amnesty for criminal cases should be linked with a political amnesty for the participants in the October events. Here is the opinion of Sergey Shakhray:

[Begin Shakhray recording] There are no political prisoners in Russia. In Russia there is a situation in which individual political leaders are accused of having committed criminal offenses. [end recording]

[Suntsov] He did not rule out that an amnesty was possible if a civil truce was concluded in the country without appeals for violence, taking acount of the crisis situation. Work on the question will be continued in the Duma's committees.

Duma Hears Alternative Economic Platforms

PM1502140194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Feb 94 First Edition pp 1, 3

[Yelena Tokareva report: "Where Is Politics Here, and Where Economics?"]

[Text] A week ago, when the anticrisis program submitted by the pillars of the socialist economy under the leadership of Academician Shatalin was widely publicized, Sergey Glazyev modestly reported at a news conference in the State Duma that the academicians' program for overcoming the crisis and for economic policy, to put it mildly, was not the only one.

The academicians' program, which, for want of any better ones, was printed in many periodicals, has proved to be one of many. The theses of four more reports aspiring to the role of programs and also the data of statistical reports characterizing the state of the economy were made public yesterday in parliamentary hearings in the State Duma.

According to a report by the chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Statistics, over the past year retail prices increased 900 percent, and wholesale prices 840 percent. The federal budget deficit stood at 17 trillion rubles [R]. Profits amounted to R40 trillion. Some 17 percent of enterprises worked at a loss over the year. Mutual nonpayments amounted to R17 trillion. Industrial production fell 15 percent compared with the previous year. In the military-industrial complex it fell 29 percent. Capital investments fell 15 percent. Of 652 capital construction projects, just 193 were commissioned. Grain production fell 7 percent compared with 1992.

How do economists in opposing camps rate these results, and what prescriptions for the future do they propose?

Yakov Urinson, first deputy minister of economics, who submitted an extensive report for the parliamentary hearings to Sergey Glazyev, who chaired those hearings, declared that the results of the economic year are contradictory. "Inflation has fallen, and the population's monetary incomes have increased. Enterprises are coming to a halt, and yet unprofitable enterprises are continuing to work, devouring resources. Some R12 trillion has gone on expenditure which was not provided for, and this when the state has a debt of R4 trillion to the military-industrial complex and the agrarian complex."

Ya. Urinson proposed a prescription for curing the crisis in the economy along the lines of the economic policy of Gaydar and Fedorov: not to change the tax policy for two years; to abolish tax breaks; to toughen up control over the expenditure part of the budget; to monitor the effectiveness of subsidies, capital investments, and subventions. To continue privatization, which, after completing the voucher stage, is to enter the stage of forming the "efficient private owner." To pursue a selective policy, reducing the number of priorities. Targeted support is needed for enterprises and particularly important sectors.

This is the forecast result: a budget deficit of 5 percent, a lowering of inflation to 2-3 percent, and an increase in unemployment from 3.8 to 7 million.

Deputies were not delighted with the plans of the leader of the Ministry of Economics. The discussion between them and Urinson was conducted in various languages. The deputies mostly used rally language, while Urinson employed economic concepts.

Boris Fedorov, now a member of the Committee for the Budget, Taxes, Banks, and Finances, delivered a brief speech which once again dotted the "i's" in the submitted summary of the program. In his speech Fedorov chiefly carried on polemics with Academician Shatalin and other admirers of "reforms with a human face." Briefly, concisely, and wittily, as always, Fedorov remarked that economic prosperity cannot be achieved just by printing money. He drew attention to the fact that we are already living in a market economy whether we want this or not and whether we call this market a bazaar or are moved by it. All the measures that were needed to create the market have already been taken, the former minister of finance said. Now it is only necessary to remove the inflationary tax. Fedorov remarked that there is no longer any need at all to write any programs. The government must adopt decisions every day in accordance with the principles of market economics. And, above all, the principles of financial discipline.

Sergey Glazyev, who submitted to the hearings a serious report which certainly does not categorize his economic views as socialist, emphasized that the main principles of future economic conduct are the reduction of preferential credits granted out of the state budget for purposes of funding the national economy and a ban on their use to fund trade operations. Particularly to acquire imported goods. The theme of protecting the Russian economy against the pernicious influence of competition with the Western economy loomed large in Glazyev's report.

Glazyev believes that the monetarists have achieved only an outward similarity with a market economy. That in the course of the reforms they failed to form a sensible structural policy. As a result of the policy of radical liberalization a spontaneous structural restructuring is taking place, consisting in the destruction of processing industry sectors and in the preferential development of raw material sectors. Thus, the potential of future growth is lost, and the economy goes over to depressed functioning as a raw materials periphery. Glazyev believes that it is necessary to encourage exports of commodities with a high proportion of VAT, not raw material goods.

Yevgeniy Saburov, who held the post of vice premier in Ivan Silayev's government, called the report by the academicians under Shatalin's leadership "good but not technical" in that it urges people to live well but does not say "how." He called Fedorov's report "technical" but said it does not inspire confidence that the prescription will lead to anything good.

In the conference lobby Yevgeniy Saburov explained his viewpoint: Only changes in the financial sphere are being made quickly and easily. But in the sphere of changing production and of new technologies there are no quick results. As a result of getting carried away with measures merely of a financial nature, we will get mass unemployment in addition to inflation. But even Saburov said words to the effect that a moderately tough credit policy is necessary. At the same time he pronounced some words which at first did not take appropriate shape in economic terms—"accord with the people." But soon he got away from populist terminology and said that he had in mind cartel agreements among industrialists.

Lvov, corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences, had the biggest success with deputies. This was evidently because he put things in a manner comprehensible even to those deputies who have not mastered the subtleties of unadapted economic slang. But most likely it was because he pronounced out loud an intimate secret: The country will be ruined by disregard for the high-tech military-industrial complex and by enthusiasm for the fuel and energy complex. In our country the sectors of the latter produce 30 percent of the profit, and machine building just 1 percent.

Lvov called VAT a powerful factor for whipping up inflation. He proposed making rent the basis of a new system of taxation, as it does not have to be taken any further along the whole manufacturing chain but is levied just once, as well as a tax on pollution of the natural environment.

So there is diversity among the programs. There is even a certain similarity among them, at least on one question: a moderately tough credit policy. At the recent congress of the Association of Russian Peasant and Private Farms I also heard from peasants that more than half the credits are embezzled by banks and by commercial structures associated with them.

Understanding of this question, at least, is growing in society. But there are few prescriptions for treating the crisis of nonpayments, unemployment, and hopelessness for high-technology Russian industry. This is why the document entitled "Recommendations of Parliamentary Hearings on the Economic Situation in the Country" mainly contained bitter words about the present state of the economy. It recommends that the government adopt an anticrisis program within three weeks clearly indicating the substance of the measures, the deadlines for fulfillment, and the expected results. The State Duma is recommended to include draft laws in the plan of priority legislative work according to application.

Still to come is a "roundtable" with the participation of members of the Federal Assembly, the government, political parties, and public movements for the purpose of reaching public accord on the main areas of socioeconomic policy.

It is sad that no more than 25 deputies were left in the hall by the end of the session. To all appearances, the economy is of far less concern to them than purely political altercations. Deputy Fedorov left the hall as soon as it had heard his own speech. So Mr. Lvov spoke without his most important opponent being present.

Regional Affairs

Russian-Tatar Treaty Based on Constitutions

LD1602215094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1931 GMT 16 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Sorokin]

[Text] Kazan February 16 TASS—"The main thing is that the treaty was concluded of the basis of two constitutions now in force—those of Russia and Tatarstan, not violating these fundamental laws but being guided by them," President Mintimer Shaymiyev of Tatarstan stressed in his speech on Tatarstan television devoted to the treaty between Russia and Tatarstan signed in Moscow.

This document, he said, recognizes the right to self-determination, equality, defense of sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the single economic space. Tatarstan exclusively owns and uses its land, bowels of the earth, and movable and immovable property. Simultaneously an instrument of the implementation of this treaty was adopted which represents 11 intergovernmental agreements.

The position of Tatarstan, Mintimer Shaymiyev noted, is directed at the democratic formation of Russia. In the concluding part of his speech Mintimer Shaymiyev thanked President Boris Yeltsin for his "invariable and consistent position shown to the very end—up to the signing of the treaty."

Chechen Opposition Seeks To Unite Forces

LD1602223894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1530 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] The armed opposition to Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev is undertaking efforts in order to unite its forces.

"Lack of unity has hampered the opposition armed formations from taking radical measures to stabilize the situation in the republic," a spokesperson from the opposition headquarters told Interfax.

According to the same sources, after the final unification of the opposition forces, the regime of President Dzhokhar Dudayev will be "more precarious than ever."

Interfax asked several supporters of the opposition to comment on the proclamation of sovereignty by official Groznyy.

"I do not need that kind of independence such as when my mother is not paid her pension for two years," Rizvan Gairabekov said.

"Sovereignty proclaimed by a group of bandits, leads to surprising paradoxes: A person who was in prison at the same time with me is now a major of the Committee of National Security," he remarked.

According to Zaindi Khajimuradov, Chechnya is now a "hotbed of crime."

"Kidnapping of women, murders, vendettas have become wide spread and murderers and rapists are still free. We are an integral part of Russia. So why did it forget about us? Where are we living?" he said.

The opposition headquarters showed Interfax a list of weapons which could be acquired in Groznyy: a Kalashnikov automatic gun is sold for 700,000-850,000 rubles, a Makarov gun for $600, a short gun for $1000, a 76-millimeter canon without battle a[illegible]le of ammunition will cost 50,000 rubles, a howitzer g[illegible]s for 30 Mn rubles and an APC for 5-6 Mn rubles.

Calls For Elections

LD1602143094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1223 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Umar Avturkhanov, mayor of the Nadterechny District held by forces opposing the Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev, called for holding elections to the Russian Federal Assembly on March 13.

He told Interfax that even if the complete sovereignty the official Grozny talks about is true, "we must share in the operation of the federal authorities. In my view, this would not harm our sovereignty."

Avturkhanov emphasized, however, that elections would not be held in the district if they were not held throughout the rest of Chechnya.

"I have no intention to separate myself from my people," he declared.

He said that Chechnya did not have proper sovereignty.

"The law of the jungle prevails under which only the strongest survive. People do not need this kind of sovereignty," he said.

In his words, Dudayev is supported only by those in the middle class who managed to get rich under his rule.

Dzhokhar Dudayev had earlier told Interfax that there would be no elections to the Federal Assembly on March 13.

Mordovian Parliament Abolishes Constitutional Court

LD1602230794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2102 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] At its session in Saransk, the parliament of Mordovia has abolished its Constitutional Court. During the discussion, it was pointed out that the Russian Constitution makes no provision for the existence of constitutional courts in the republics.

It is interesting that, during the nine months of its existence, the Constitutional Court of Mordovia considered only three matters, while 44 million rubles of budget funds were spent on maintaining the court.

International Affairs

Kravchuk: New Parliament To Decide on Nuclear Treaty

LD1702102294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0926 GMT 17 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Varlamov]

[Text] Tokyo February 17 TASS—The present Ukrainian parliament will have no time to settle the question of Ukraine's accession to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, handing over this problem to the new legislature to be elected on March 27, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said in an interview with the Japanese ASAHI newspaper in Kiev on Thursday.

The president said, the newspaper notes, that he "favours stronger economic cooperation with Russia" but denies the existence of a territorial issue and that "the international community will not recognise" stronger political ties between the Crimea and Russia.

Kravchuk referred to the tripartite agreement on the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from Ukraine, which was signed by him as well as by the Russian and U.S. presidents in Moscow. Under this agreement, Washington assumed the role of a guarantor of Ukraine's territorial integrity and inviolability of its borders.

Among outstanding issues between Ukraine and Russia, Kravchuk singled out a package of questions connected with the future of the Black Sea Fleet. For instance, he is worried over how and at what price to sell the Ukrainian part of the divided fleet to Russia.

The president also expressed hope for a success of his coming U.S. visit on March 4 and his meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton. According to Kravchuk, this visit will "help change the position of the international community on Ukraine which will become a nuclear-free state".

The Ukrainian president expressed his expectations that the United States will fulfill its obligations to boost financial aid to Ukraine. "Its total sum will possibly amount to 600 or 700 million dollars," he said.

Defense Minister Says Nation Can Be 'Equal Partner of NATO'

AU1602163194 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 15 Feb 94 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Seven Feet Under the Keel!"]

[Text] On 12 February, in the Sevastopol port arrival and departure building, a ceremony was held of hoisting the Ukrainian naval flag on the small ASW ship "Lutsk". The ship was built at the Kiev "Leninska Kuznya" plant. After the completion of all the running and state tests, it was added to the Ukrainian Fleet. The ship is more that 70 meters long and more than 10 meters wide; its speed is more than 50 knots. Captain Third Rank Viktor Zaremba was appointed as the ship's captain.

The ceremony was attended by Ukraine's Minister of Defense, Army General Vitaliy Radetskyy; commander of Ukraine's Naval Forces Volodymyr Bezkorovaynyy, and leaders of Sevastopol, Lutsk, and Volyn Oblast state administrations. Metropolitan of Lutsk and of Volyn Oblast Ioann (the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Kiev Patriarchate) consecrated the ship and blessed the sailors.

Near the ladder of the ship, Vitaliy Radetskyy gave a news conference. He confirmed that Sevastopol will be the main base and the headquarters of Ukraine's Naval Forces. Having given a high assessment to Ukraine's signing of the NATO Partnership for Peace program in Brussels, V. Radetskyy said that "Even now, Ukraine's armed forces have everything necessary to be an equal partner of NATO." According to him, the Ukrainian Army may conduct joint exercises with armies of other states and "the future presence of Ukraine's Naval Forces in the Mediterranean Sea is not ruled out," as is stipulated in the documents signed in Brussels.

In connection with Crimean president Yu. Meshkov's statements on the demilitarization of the Crimea at the expense of the Black Sea Fleet, Ukraine's army general pointed out that, in his opinion, this problem must be resolved in two stages. An inventory of the Black Sea Fleet, as of 1991, must be carried out, and its units and formations must be reduced to an optimally needed quantity. In general, "these questions may only be resolved by Ukraine's president and the Supreme Council."

Defense Minister Cited on Yugoslav Crisis, Fleet Issue

LD1602230394 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Ukraine's Defense Minister Army General Vitaliy Radetskyy met foreign officials accredited in our state. The leader of the military department [Defense Ministry of Ukraine] informed the guests about the development of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, about the problems emerging from this, and he replied to numerous questions from the foreign diplomats. The general underlined that Ukraine, as a peace-loving state, would gradually reduce its own Armed Forces and take an active part in tackling the problems of European and regional security. As far as the solution of the Yugoslav issue is concerned, the defense minister remarked that this could only be done in the course of a peaceful negotiation process with all the interested parties involved.

The diplomats also took an interest in the issue of the Black Sea Fleet's division. In the opinion of the military department leader, it is necessary, first and foremost, to draw up an inventory at state level of all the Black Sea Fleet's property as of December 1991, and subsequently

reduce its numerical strength, and only then to decide on which share of the Black Sea Fleet belongs to whom.

UN Delegate Worried About Bosnia Air Strike

LD1602153794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1411 GMT 16 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations February 16 TASS—The United Nations Security Council completed here on Tuesday its open debate on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition to 15 members of the Security Council, the floor was also taken by representatives of 57 other countries.

As on the previous day, the deliberations focused on the NATO Council's decision to deal air strikes in Bosnia. Algerian delegate Ramtane Lamanra urged the United Nations "to pursue a tough policy" in Bosnia, while Jordanian representative Fu'ad Batayinah reiterated the Western thesis that the "NATO decision to deal air strikes is in full accordance with resolutions of the Security Council".

Contrary to this, Ukrainian delegate Volodymyr Handohiy said that NATO air strikes in Bosnia were fraught with unpredictable military and political consequences for all the world, that such decisions should be adopted by the U.N. Security Council and not by individual states.

"Ukraine is deeply disturbed by the fact that U.N. forces could become targets of reply blows from radical Serbian field commanders if air strikes are launched even on a limited scale," Handohiy stressed. "Taking this into account, the United Nations may find itself deeply involved in a military confrontation with unpredictable military and political consequences not only for the region, but for the world as a whole," he added.

The Ukrainian representatative stressed that he did not rule out the use of all the available means, including armed forces, in reply to hostile actions in areas where U.N. forces are deployed, and also when there is no other way to stop the killing of innocent people. "However, such actions should be taken only when there is a clearly expressed decision of the Security Council," Handohiy stated.

"NATO air strikes in Bosnia will not help achieve a lasting political settlement of the Bosnian problem. They will merely cross out everything that has already been achieved during the peace talks," permanent delegate of the United Republic of Yugoslavia on the United Nations Dragomir Dzekic stated. "The United Republic of Yugoslavia bluntly objects to this decision," he stressed. "It will make the prospects for overcoming the crisis even more uncertain. Any attempt to deal air strikes will signify direct involvement in a civil war in behalf of one of the sides involved in it. Those who advocate this, will bear responsibility for the inevitable consequences and for the possible escalation of the conflict."

After the open debate, Chairman of the Security Council Roble Olhaye (Djibouti) told journalists that no decision would be passed on the results of the discussion. "We simply gave everybody a chance to express their view on the problem," Olhaye noted.

Military Cooperation Communique Signed With Kazakhstan

WS1602205594 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Delegations from the Ukrainian and Kazakhstani Defense Ministries have concluded negotiations they held in Almaty by signing a joint communique. The delegations were led by Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Ivan Oliynyk and Alibek Kasimov, the Kazakhstani Armed Forces chief of staff.

The NOVYNY television and radio agency learned that the Ukrainian side said it was ready for technical and scientific cooperation in developing new types of equipment and in modernizing the already existing one. Mutual assistance between Kazakhstan and Ukraine in this sphere will enable this work to be carried out as efficiently as possible. The communique deemed promising the cooperation of both countries in developing their rocket and space capabilities. The Kazakhstani delegation expressed its interest in a more intensive utilization of Ukraine's repair facilities for the benefit of the Kazakhstani Armed Forces. A mechanism for settling mutual accounts will soon be determined, including the quick liquidation of debts. Both sides noted the vast opportunities for cooperation between the Kazakhstani and Ukrainian Defense Ministries in the sphere of logistical support, military training, and other military aspects. These kinds of bilateral consultations are in compliance with international commitments and do not encroach on the interests of third countries. During the negotiations, an agreement was reached to hasten work by Kazakhstan and Ukraine intended to finalize a military cooperation treaty.

Crimean President Announces MFN Status From Russia

LD1602204394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1611 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Russia has granted the Republic of Crimea the most favoured nations status, Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov told a press conference on Wednesday, highlighting the results of his talks in Moscow.

"All the decisions taken in Moscow will be implemented and all of the necessary preliminary agreements have been reached," he said. The goal we have pursued for several years—the economic unity of Russia and Crimea—has been attained, he added.

Meshkov said that the problem of making the Russian ruble a legitimate payment unit in Crimea has practically been solved.

"The technique and methods of doing so is Crimea's affair," he said. He also added that it was vitally important for the Crimean economy to have the ruble as a payment unity by the beginning of summer.

"No one should shun benefit," he stated.

"In Crimea reforms will develop the traditional way, and the systems of civil laws will be levelled up to create a legal foundation for uniting the Crimean and Russian economies," he told Interfax-Ukraine. "We cannot neglect the processes which are going on in Russia and which will occur in Ukraine," he said.

To quote the Crimean president, Russia is well aware of Crimea's economic problems and has a favorable attitude to Crimea. "Unfortunately, this cannot be said about the officials representing the Ukrainian economy," he said. He noted, however, that Russia's positive attitude to Crimea did not mean a demonstrative rupture of economic ties with Ukraine. On the contrary, we'll have more opportunities for broadening our relations," he said.

He announced that Crimea's trade and economic mission will be established in Moscow to coordinate relations with Russia. He suggested that the missions of Russia and of Crimea's neighbors—the Krasnodar and Stavropol territories and the Rostov-on-Don region—would be set up in Simferopol. He said that only God Almighty was higher than the level of the Moscow talks.

Commenting on the appointment of Yevgeniy Saburov to the post of Crimea's premier, he said that this particular appointment was extremely advantageous.

He noted that he did not call Kiev to give an account of his talks in Moscow to the Ukrainian president. He said, however, that a delegation of the Crimean Cabinet, led by Acting Prime Minister Anatoliy Franchuk, had arrived in Kiev. The preliminary results of the talks are positive, he said.

National Affairs

Crimean President Confirms Appointment of Saburov

LD1602180694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1430 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Simferopol, 16 Feb—On 16 February, the KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA [Crimean Truth] newspaper published an interview with President of Crimea Yuriy Meshkov. In particular, he noted that confidential meetings with Russian government officials had taken place during the Crimean delegation's visit to Moscow. According to Meshkov, issues were discussed that are to be resolved in the near future: The supply of additional gas to the peninsula and the allocation of grain and agricultural produce. The Crimean president also stressed that the issue of opening an official mission of the Russian government in the Republic of Crimea had been examined. Meshkov confirmed that Yevgeniy Saburov, the well-known Russian economist, had agreed to occupy the post of deputy prime minister of the autonomous republic. All of Russia is behind Saburov. All Russian Federation officials have approved his decision, stated the Crimean president. He also reported that the deputy prime minister would be forming the Cabinet of Ministers of the autonomy.

Lawyers Say Saburov Cannot Perform Duties

LD1602232994 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2020 GMT 16 Feb 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Ivan Timchenko, the head of the Ukrainian president's legal service says Yevgeniy Saburov cannot become prime minister of Crimea. He said that Ukrainian law does not ban foreign citizens from occupying such a post, but that, as a citizen of a foreign state, Saburov cannot have access to information that constitutes Ukraine's state secrets and that, without this, he cannot really carry out the duties of Crimean prime minister, Timchenko said.

Republican Party Leader on Electoral Platform, Plans

WS1502181694 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 12 Feb 94 p 2

[Interview with Republican Party Chairman Mykhaylo Horyn by unidentified reporter; place and date not given: "Equal Opportunities for Everyone"]

[Text] [Reporter] Do you think that democratic principles will be observed in the upcoming legislative elections?

[Horyn] I believe that there are no grounds for grave concern, although certain forces will probably want to create an atmosphere of uncertainty and tension. In my opinion, the situation could be normalized if the executive bodies take preventive measures now.

[Reporter] Will the electoral law affect the results of the elections?

[Horyn] The electoral law was meant to limit the influence of parties on political life in Ukraine. We hoped that the elections would be a great chance for many young parties to grow, become stronger, and form the political basis of a democratic society, but this has not happened. The majority system has in fact put an end to hopes for a multiparty society. This has happened, although all of Ukraine's democratic forces demanded that a mixed proportional system be introduced.

[Reporter] How many candidates will the Republican Party field?

[Horyn] According to preliminary calculations, we will have more than 100.

[Reporter] What is your opinion about holding a referendum on the main provisions of the draft constitution on election day?

[Horyn] This would only complicate the electoral process. I would rather propose that this issue be resolved by the new legislature. It would be very unwise to vote on the main provisions without a preliminary discussion of the draft by either the newly elected Supreme Council or the Constitutional Assembly. I am against doing this.

[Reporter] Could you briefly outline your election platform?

[Horyn] Our economic, political, and military programs were drafted as early as 1992, because we were the first registered democratic organization and the first alternative to the Communist Party of Ukraine. We believe that Ukraine should be a multiparty parliamentary republic. Private property, coexisting with other forms of property, should be the driving force of the economy. We want the privatization program to provide equal opportunities for all Ukrainian citizens.

[Reporter] What is your opinion regarding the tripartite declaration signed in Moscow by Presidents Kravchuk, Clinton, and Yeltsin?

[Horyn] I believe that this is a very important document which requires thorough analysis.

[Reporter] How can this document affect Ukraine's national security?

[Horyn] In my opinion, the adoption of the current version of the document would deal a heavy blow to Ukraine.

'Analysis Center' Chief on Security Issues

WS1602171194 Kiev KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 15 Feb 94 p 9

[Interview with Colonel Aleksandr Belov, "one of the chiefs" of the Ukrainian Security Service Analysis Center, by unidentified UNIAN reporter; place and date not given: "CIA Director Demanded That His Functionaries Foresee Events and Not Write History"]

[Text] At the end of 1991, in compliance with the Ukrainian laws "On Security Service" and "On Investigative Operations," the analysis and information administration was established at the Ukrainian Security Service [SBU], which included a research unit called the analysis center. A UNIAN correspondent met with one of its chiefs, Colonel Aleksandr Belov. Here is what he said.

[Belov] Over the past two years, we have sent more than 3,500 documents on national security matters to the Ukrainian president, Supreme Council chairman, and prime minister. This enables the necessary measures to be taken on the legislative level and allows people to keep one step ahead of events. Instead of writing history, we try to foresee developments. By the way, this is what former CIA Director Robert Gates demanded from his people. We are now studying two major issues. The first is Ukraine and the system of collective security, because just like other East European states, our country seeks to enter international institutions in order to obtain firm guarantees of its security. We are trying to consider all the advantages and disadvantages stemming, for example, from entry into NATO or the EEC, integration into the Visegrad Group, or the creation of a Baltic and Black Sea Union. The second issue is to determine the likely centers for international terrorist organizations' operations on Ukrainian territory.

[Reporter] How often were your prognoses borne out?

[Belov] When the armed conflict in the Dniester region was in its initial stage, the Ukrainian leadership instructed the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Foreign Ministry, border troops, and the SBU to prevent the spread of the conflict onto Ukraine's territory. At that time, we were preparing on a daily basis information for Leonid Kravchuk, Ivan Plyushch, and Anatoliy Zlenko on the situation in the region and the likely directions that events might take. Our prediction that the 14th Russian Army was likely to turn into an independent political force was borne out.

[Reporter] Do you have any evidence of any analytical operations by foreign special services in the Crimea?

[Belov] At present, the Crimea remains a potential crisis spot, not only in Ukraine but also in the context of a larger geopolitical area. This is why developments in that region are closely watched by Turkey, Romania, the United States, Germany, and Russia.

Belarus

Kebich Reorganizes Government Structure

LD1602222394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1552 GMT 16 Feb 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] Premier Vyacheslav Kebich has abolished the State Secretariat for Struggle with Crime and for National Security by his ordinance.

According to governmental sources, a department for coordination of administrative bodies' activities was established instead of the former state secretariat. The newly established department is led by Belarussian People's Deputy, former First Deputy State Secretary Valeriy Pavlov.

At the same time, Kebich introduced a new post in the Cabinet of Ministers—the State Secretary for National Security, the rank of who in the official hierarchy is close to an envoy. Former State Secretary, Gennadiy Danilov, (who is considered by observers in Minsk as one of the most influential people in the circles close to the premier) was appointed to this post.

Among the new secretary's duties there is coordination of activities carried out by all law enforcement structures and by the army and aimed at combating the crime. According to governmental sources, Kebich demanded that Danilov urgently work out "a national program on very strict measures for struggle with this evil."

According to the results of the recently held public opinion poll published by the government's press service on Wednesday, as many as 32.7 percent of respondents believe that the crisis in the republic could be overcome through strengthening of the struggle with mafia and corruption.

Answering to the question who could withdraw the country from the crisis, a total of 10.3 percent of respondents called Kebich; 6.8 percent Head of the temporary parliamentary commission on struggle with corruption, Aleksandr Lukashenko; 4.2 percent Mechyslaw Hryb; 3.4 percent Leader of the Belarusian People's Front, Zyanon Paznyak and 0.8 percent of respondents put their confidence in the parliament's former Speaker, Stanislav Shushkevich.

The rest of the respondents said there was no such leader in the republic or found it hard to give a definite answer.

Official on Strike Failure, Ostankino's Coverage

WS1702123094 Minsk BTK Television Network in Belarusian 1900 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Statement read by Uladzimir Pyatrovich Zametalin, press secretary of Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich, from the "Panorama" feature; place and date not given; live or recorded]

[Text] Good evening, viewers! In connection with the fact that some mass media—first and foremost Ostankino Television—are making tendentious comments on the recent developments in Belarus, I consider it my duty to comment on a statement that was issued on this occasion and distributed via all mass media channels today. The Belarusian nation, which lost one quarter of all its people during World War II, values stability and its joint historic roots with the fraternal Russian people more than anything else. The attempts to wreck the natural integration processes of the two sovereign states—Belarus and Russia—have no future because they lack common sense. Belarusian national extremists are pursuing this policy contrary to the desire of the absolute majority of Belarusian people to restore historical logic to the further development of the two fraternal states. This is why the public did not back the so-called all-Belarusian political strike on 15 February. The working people of Belarus proved themselves to be at a higher level and wiser than the nationalist adventurers, and they gave preference to the constitutional path of socially oriented reforms. The calls of the strike organizers had the opposite effect and brought people out into the squares of many Belarusian towns to demand firm social guarantees and rigid control over the economy, including the restoration of the USSR.

The strike, in which between 100,000 and 3,000 [as heard] people participated in various regions, allows us to state definitely that Belarus remains a democratic, constitutional, and stable state. The planned political action aimed at torpedoing the economic union that is being created between Belarus and Russia was a failure. In this situation, we greatly regret to report that Ostankino Television newscasts gave tendentious coverage to the developments in Belarus. Not only was the comment on the political strike in the newscasts extremely exaggerated, and not only was an absurd, preposterous conclusion made about instability in Belarus, but the right to speak on behalf of the Belarusian people was kindly given to Zyanon Paznyak, leader of the Belarusian Popular Front, who is known in the Republic for his extreme views rejecting everything that is Slavic and Russian. Ostankino Television did not see fit to consider that, according to opinion polls, the so-called Belarusian national democrats are supported by only 7 or 8 percent of the population.

At sharp turning points in history, politics cannot and must not be out of step with public opinion [passage indistinct] in strict accordance with the international agreement on human political rights, by which I mean clauses 19 and 20 of that document. Thank you. I wish you all the best.

Moldova

Head of Russian Peacekeepers Arrives in Dniester

LD1602175994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1514 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Tiraspol February 16 TASS—Russian Deputy Defence Minister Georgiy Kondratyev arrived in the

independence-seeking Dniester region of Moldova on Wednesday to inspect the 14th Russian Army which is acting as a peace-keeping force there.

"I am responsible for the peace-keeping forces of Russia and I have come here to see how they live and what problems they have to solve," Kondratyev said.

He said he will meet with the army commanders and Dniester authorities to discuss the future of Russian peace-keepers in the region. "They cannot stay here forever," he added.

He told ITAR-TASS that this is a routine inspection, but surely he would speak with army commander Aleksandr Lebed about his recent public statements.

The army commanders had warned all sides against "the illusion that the (Moldovan-Dniester) conflict can be solved by force." They said though that the Army would not stand on the sidelines if new hostilities erupt and promised that "the organisers of armed provocations from either bank (of the Dniestr River) will get severe punishment for any attempt to unleash a new conflict."

The Foreign Ministry of Moldova then accused the command of the 14th Army of "interference into the affairs of the republic" and said in a statement issued on Friday the Russian Army was "the main destabilising factor in the Dniester region."

The Foreign Ministry said that such statements "undermine bilateral negotiations on the future of the 14th Army" and reiterated that the Moldovan leadership "insists on an unconditional pullout of the Army."

Kondartyev told ITAR-TASS that the fate of the 14th Army is to be solved by politicians, not by the military and added that "we may withdraw it already tomorrow."

During the three-day visit, Kondratyev will tour the bases of Russian peace-keeping forces numbering 1,700 in the region and meet with Dniester President Igor Smirnov. He may also hold talks with representatives of the Moldovan Defence Ministry.

Moldovan-Russian Troop Talks Postponed

LD1602224194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1534 GMT 16 Feb 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Report by Diplomatic Correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] The eighth round of the Moldovan-Russian talks on the status and the withdrawal of the 14th Russian Army scheduled for February 16-17 has been postponed for an indefinite period, Interfax was told by the Moldovan Ambassador, chief Moldovan negotiator Anatol Taranu.

He gave no comment to the talks rescheduling.

He said that the invitation to the Russian side was sent on time. Russia insists on further work by expert teams because it believes the plenary meeting was not prepared completely.

Taranu believes the Russian delegation to be using this pretext so as to wait for the results of the parliamentary elections in Moldova and change the position concerning the Russian army in line with the results.

Local observers believe Moscow expects pro-Russian parties to come to power in Moldova. Such a result would strengthen Russia's negotiating position.

Taranu said that if Moldova's principled position concerning the schedule for the withdrawal of the 14th Russian Army is changed, he will refuse to head the Moldovan delegation at the talks.

Moldova insists on the complete withdrawal of the 14th Russian Army before July 1, 1994. The Russian delegation believes in the mean time, that the army withdrawal should be conditioned by the adoption of a special status for the Transdniestrian region.

Snegur Views Elections, 14th Army, Ilascu Group

AU1702082094 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 2000 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Correspondent Mircea Dascaliuc report from Chisinau]

[Text] Today the president of the Republic of Moldova Mircea Snegur granted an interview to the correspondent of the German Radio Station Deutsche Welle, the Press Bureau of the Presidency announced.

A number of questions referred to the early parliamentary elections due on 27 February 1994. President Mircea Snegur stated that all necessary conditions have been created to ensure an appropriate electoral process in a democratic way. Regarding the citizens in the eastern rayons of the Republic of Moldova, he has prepared a decree according to which those citizens will be able to cast their votes one week earlier because the Tiraspol authorities do not want to set up electoral stations in the area they controlled. This decree was required by the president's duty to respect the claims of the population in that area, claims that have been expressed at recent meetings, Mircea Snegur also stated.

Referring to the issue of the 14th Army, which is deployed on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, President Snegur affirmed that this will be withdrawn unconditionally, which means that the Russian side will not ask for a special legal statute for Dniester as the price for the withdrawal.

President Mircea Snegur also referred to the Ilascu group in connection with this issue and said that the current constitution of the Republic of Moldova prefers to act more and talk less, currently making everything possible for the transfer of the group to Chisinau.

According to the report of the Presidency's Press, when asked for his views regarding the responses to the speech he made [on 5 February] at the congress Our Home the Republic of Moldova, Snegur said, quote, the speech focused on concrete realities and on the current situation, unquote. Noting that he does not withdraw the remarks he made, President Snegur added that none of his critics remarked that the speech was deliberately based on the idea of maintaining the national and blood ties.

In concluding the Deutsche Welle interview, President Snegur said that the Republic of Moldova will join the formula proposed by the North Atlantic Alliance, that is, the Partnership for Peace, but, at the same time, it will not stop militating for the achievement of neutral status.

Russian Troops Face Hostility on Both Sides

PM1602151594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Feb 94 First Edition p 3

[Svetlana Gamova article: "The Suffering of the Young 'Occupiers' on the Bridge across the Dniester"]

[Text] Chisinau—The security zone defined by the treaty signed by Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Mircea Snegur in July 1992 extends 5 km from the right bank and 5 km from the left bank of the Dniester.

For 18 months the zone has been under the control of the Joint Peacemaking Forces: On the one side those of Moldova and Russia, on the opposite side those of Russia and the Dniester region. The left-bank security zone, once the scene of combat operations, is a zone of alienation. A "quiet" war for influence over the villages along the river is being waged there between Chisinau and Tiraspol. Some villages have—by decision of their local assemblies—placed themselves under the Dniester region's protectorate, while some have raised the state flag of Moldova.

The quietness in the neutral zone could be shattered: Unresolved political problems are building up unhealthy tension. According to local inhabitants, today's situation is reminiscent of March 1992—the start of the armed conflict in the eastern regions of Moldova.

Between Dubossary and Kochiery, whose streets run into each other, there is a traffic control barrier. In front of the barrier, where Russian soldiers warm themselves by a simple fire, is the Dniester region; beyond lies the territory of Moldova. Here plutoniers (the rank in the Moldovan police corresponding to sergeant) stamp their feet on the frost—an unusual occurrence in the south. While not established by any laws or envisaged by the United Nations, the border is nevertheless marked out.

Vehicles are searched "for weapons" at the barrier. For the inhabitants, particularly the children who hurry from Dubossary to the Moldavian school in Kochiery and, the other way around, from Kochiery to Dubossary, the barrier is opened. The ban applies only to police, who are not allowed to show themselves in the city in uniform. But, according to the guard post sergeants, it is dangerous to travel to Dubossary even without their uniforms—if they are recognized, they are beaten up.

The Moldovan guard post appeared alongside the peacemaking post recently, after the declaration of the special situation in the Dniester region and in response to the militia guard post. Both sides fear acts of provocation during the Moldovan parliamentary elections, which will be held in Kochiery but forbidden in Dubossary.

However, conflict could break out for reasons that have nothing do with politics. By decision of the Dniester region authorities 800 hectares of land in the use of Kochiery's Viktoriya sovkhoz is being expropriated.

The land struggle in Dubossarskiy Rayon, which is described by the Chisinau press as nothing less than provocation, is not the only ground for settling accounts between the right and left banks. Not far from Dubossary stands the only bridge across the Dniester left intact after the fighting. On the right bank is a Moldovan guard post, on the left bank a Dniester region guard post. On the bridge itself is a joint guard post with Russian peacemaking troops. Recently Russian soldiers have refused to do duty detail on the bridge: The bridge is in a defective state. Because of a widening lateral crack the joint monitoring commission has banned heavy trucks from crossing the bridge. Only cars and scheduled buses are permitted, and only then on condition that the passengers get out. Traffic nevertheless remains heavy. While the Moldovan and Dniester region sides are working out who is to repair the bridge and thus control the traffic, trucks carrying food use it, Moldovan peacemaking troops drive tracked vehicles across it, and Turkish wagons slip across on the quiet—for the now customary bribe in dollars, rubles, or leis. Only "suvorovki," the Dniester region rubles overstamped with a picture of Suvorov, are not in use here. "Who wants them?" They make a charge for the crossing on both the left and the right bank. They also tell you amicably that the bridge could collapse.

The village of Dorotskoye, like the famous Malinovka from the well-known operetta, found itself caught between crossfire from "left" and "right" during the armed conflict. It has remained under dual control. There are two administrations in the village—the rural soviet and the Moldovan primarie [city hall]—and two detachments—the police and the militia. A battalion of Russian peacemaking forces is quartered here. The emergency situation prevailing in the security zone is indicated not so much by the largest number of armed men per square kilometer in the CIS as by the frightened and anxious looks on the local peasants' faces. They have been afraid to talk to journalists. Just imagine having "Whites to the left of you and Reds to the right." Albeit that the Dniester region guards are perhaps the less welcome in the Moldovan village.

The Russian peacemakers are also "foreigners" here. A week ago a drunken picket at the guard post on the bridge demanded that Russian soldiers remove reinforced concrete blocks obstructing traffic and remove themselves at the same time. According to reports from the ordinary soldiers, they often receive threats of reprisals. The Moldovan peasants' attitude to the Russian soldiers is clear-cut—they are occupiers.

Reminders that you are on foreign soil are also heard from the Dniester region side. You will hear all manner of things from the Cossacks and border troops whose guard posts are to be found, according to the battalion commander, on virtually every corner.

According to official figures the Joint Peacekmaking Forces lost around 20 men last year. This was for a variety of reasons, including mishandling of weapons and "drink-related" accidents. Just before the new year the battalion in Dorotskoye lost one of its men. The leadership of the local Moldovan kolkhoz could not find boards to make a coffin for the "occupier."

Sangheli Condemns Romanian 'Interference'

AU1602215194 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 2000 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Bucharest has to understand once and for all that Moldova is a sovereign state, stated Andrei Sangheli in an exclusive interview granted to the ITAR-TASS agency also received by ROMPRES.

Sangheli pointed out that we are brothers, but each of us has his own home and lives according to his own rules. Some representatives of Romania, as we know from our own sources, promote a two-faced policy concerning us, that is, openly they say that they acknowledge Moldova's independence, but behind our backs they claim that our republic is part of Romania, Sangheli stated.

What strikes me most, he continued, is the stance adopted by Romania's Foreign Affairs Ministry, the representative of which a few days ago stated that in order to solve the fate of Moldova all Romanians should be consulted. I think that the best answer to such offensive assertions is the statement made by our president, Mircea Snegur, during the [5 February] meeting entitled "Our Home, the Republic of Moldova," in which he condemned the forces that support unification with Romania, after which he issued a presidential decree on organizing a public opinion poll among the republic's population with respect to the issue of Moldova's independence.

It is regrettable that our desire to find out the opinion of our people has triggered such reactions on behalf of the Romanian press, proving that they do not understand history, and also triggered offensive assertions against Moldova's leaders. This is really foreign interference in the affairs of a sovereign state, the independence of which was first recognized by Romania, stated Sangheli in the interview he granted to ITAR-TASS.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Ends 'Official Part' of U.S. Visit

LD1602215694 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 16 Feb 94

[By correspondents Sergey Goryachev, Aliya Nugmanova, and Vladimir Gerasev from Washington, including recorded remarks by President Nazarbayev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev has ended the official part of his U.S. visit. Our correspondents report on the details from Washington.

[Goryachev] [Video shows Nazarabayev walking with Clinton at press conference] President Clinton assessed relations with Kazakhstan as a long-term partnership of strategic importance. From now on Kazakhstan—which is the ninth largest country in the world, and with its resources and its position at the meeting point of Europe and Asia—will become an important player in the sphere of U.S. foreign policy, and not only policy. [video shows oil drilling]

[Nugmanova] Presidents Nazarbayev and Clinton reached agreement on setting up in Almaty the headquarters of the Central Asian Business Fund, for the activities of which the United States is allocating $30 million. The amount will be increased as specific projects are implemented. This is advantageous to us.

[Gerasev] What is advantageous for the United States is Kazakhstan's movement toward a market economy, which is considered here as being successful. But the main thing is the republic's nuclear disarmament. The official document on Kazakhstan's accession to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is a success for Clinton. A success for Nazarbayev is major U.S. financial aid which, it was stated, will be trebled and will exceed $300 million.

The talks in Washington were bilateral, but Russia and its relations with Kazakhstan was an invisible participant in the talks.

[Nazarbayev] [Video shows Nazarbayev speaking to camera] Another question which I put to the leadership of Russia was of concluding a treaty on military cooperation between Russia and Kazakhstan, whereby we would in effect become military-political allies. Then it would have been possible to say to America that it is our business where our armed forces and our missiles are located in the interests of the security of the two states. However, the Russian side did not agree to that. That is where the whole question lies.

[Goryachev] Kazakhstan, Russia, and the other countries of the former USSR are increasingly acting individually in their relations with the United States. But perhaps understanding of the fact that there is strength in numbers is not too far away.

Goes to UN, Meets Butrus-Ghali

LD1602215594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1932 GMT 16 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS-KAZTAG correspondents Amangeldiy Akhmetalimov and Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations February 16 TASS—U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali met here on Wednesday with Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

During the meeting, Nazarbayev moved an initiative to convene a special session of the U.N. General Assembly on the post-confrontation period. The participants in the meeting also discussed the Kazakh initiative for creating a collective security system in Asia by concluding a treaty on coordination and trust-building measures on the continent. This initiative was put forward by the Kazakh president at the 47th session of the U.N. General Assembly in 1992.

The U.N. secretary general praised the initiatives moved by the Kazakh president.

Butrus-Ghali and Nazarbayev also discussed the current situation in Central Asia, Kazakhstan, Russia and the entire world.

After the meeting, the Kazakh president put his signature to the convention on child's rights. Kazakhstan became the 156th nation to join to this convention.

In conclusion of his staying at the U.N. headquarters, Nazarbayev met administrator of the United Nations Development Programme James Spet.

Addresses News Conference at UN

LD1702094294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0900 GMT 17 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations Organisation February 17 TASS—Kazakhstan's main ambition is to become one of the largest oil exporters, and its main problem is to ensure for itself an access to southern seas for exporting Kazakh oil, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev said, addressing a press conference at the U.N. headquarters on Wednesday, and called on foreign investors to help.

"I think that if we manage to attract investments in the necessary amounts, Kazakhstan may become a major exporter of crude oil, because our domestic demand is only 20 million tonnes and our oil output has already reached 27 million tonnes," Nazarbayev said.

"Now we should look for ways of ensuring oil transportation. There is no alternative so far to the laying of an oil pipeline to Novorossiisk across the Russian territory. Its capacity will be from 15 to 17 million tonnes, which will meet our demands for some 80 years to come.

However, since we are planning to produce 100 to 120 million tonnes early in the coming century, we shall need alternative routes for oil export. This is a very important question for us," he continued.

"The former Soviet Union connected all its republics with Europe through Russia, and now this is the only (possible) way (of transportation). This is why we intend to establish railway communication with China and, through China, with the Pacific coast. We are examining plans of laying pipelines to the south, i.e. to the Persian Gulf, to Turkey and the Mediterranean via Iran and to the Mediterranean via the Caspian Sea and the Caucasus." The Kazakh president said. [punctuation as received]

The president described the signing of a major contract with the U.S. Chevron company last April as an important event. The contract deals with the oil field, which, according to Nazarbayev, is equal to the Alaska oil field.

He said that, aside from Chevron, a consortium will operate in Kazakhstan, specifically, in the West-Kazakh part of the oil and gas bearing area which, according to estimates, contains 25 billion tonnes of hydrocarbons, suitable for extraction.

"Kazakhstan is fully self-sufficient in energy resources and is even exporting them. It is also self-sufficient in food and is exporting it. So, our problem is to gain access to southern seas and find ways to the world market as soon as possible", Nazarbayev stressed.

Gives Speech at Columbia University

LD1702065094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0633 GMT 17 Feb 94

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Romantsov]

[Text] New York February 17 TASS—Wednesday [16 February] was a busy day for Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, who is now in the United States on an official visit. In the morning he had several meetings at the U.N. headquarters, including with U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, then he held a press conference for journalists accredited at the U.N.

Nazarbayev's speech at Columbia University, in which he set forth Kazakhstan's stand on problems of the world order, development and democracy, became the feature event of the day. He stressed that Kazakhstan, like any other young state, seeks to protect its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, to create conditions for the formation of a market-based economy, the strengthening of democratic institutions and the maintenance of harmonious inter-ethnic relations, and to ensure national security.

Speaking about Kazakhstan's foreign policy, Nazarbayev pointed out that its priority goal is the creation of a zone of confidence and good neighbourly relations along the whole parameter of its borders. "I have always been and continue to be an advocate of historically formed relations of friendship, cooperation and mutual understanding on the whole territory of the former USSR republics and I have consistently supported the idea of economic integration of the CIS member states," Nazarbayev said.

So far as Kazakh-American relations are concerned, their essence is reflected in the charter on democratic partnership, signed in Washington, the Kazakh president continued. He said the Clinton administration was actively encouraging large-scale American private investments in the Kazakh economy.

The U.S. Asian society gave a reception for the Kazakh president on Wednesday night.

Today Nazarbayev flies home to Almaty via Paris, where he is planning to meet French President Francois Mitterrand.

Azerbaijan

Fighting Continues in Kelbadzhar, Fizuli Areas

LD1602172194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1530 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry announced on Wednesday [16 February] that fighting continued in Azerbaijan's Kelbadzhar Region, as Armenian forces were making further efforts to regain control over the road linking Kelbadzhar and Agdere (Armenian name Mardakert).

During combat operations Armenians sustained many losses and lost an armored vehicle, says Baku.

Fighting also continued in the south of the Fizuli Region near the strategic railway station of Goradiz. The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry reports that over the past two days Armenians have lost about 600 men.

Sources in Stepanakert have not confirmed this information.

The headquarters of the Karabakh army told Interfax that Azerbaijani forces attempted to launch an attack on the village of Tonashen in the Mardakert Region. The Karabakh formations rebuffed that attack.

Armenia Rejects Mediation on Nagorno-Karabakh

LD1602204094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1712 GMT 16 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku February 16 TASS—Armenia rejected mediation by the authoritative international organizations "Foundation Global for Community" and "International Alert" in arranging a meeting of Armenian and Azerbaijani experts, which was scheduled to be held in Oslo later this month. The meeting was to concentrate on possible ways of settling the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Armenia accounted for its refusal by the fact that Nagorno-Karabakh's Armenian community was barred from negotiations, while Armenia thinks it necessary to grant this community the status of a party in the conflict, Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry reported tonight.

Georgian Foreign Minister Meets Leaders

NC1602154494 Baku AZERTAC in English 1337 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Baku, February 16 (AZERTAC)—Georgia and Azerbaijan have similar opinion on international and regional problems, prospects of bilateral cooperation, Aleksandr Chikvaidze, Georgian foreign minister stated yesterday. Mr. Chikvaidze arrived to Baku with a short-term visit on his route to Tehran.

Mr. Chikvaidze said that his meetings with President Aliyev and Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Gasan Gasanov were aimed to ascertain each others approaches to some issues. Such contacts are necessary, he said, because both the countries would like to appear with common position at various international forums.

According to the foreign minister of Georgia, issues concerning international conflicts in the region were discussed in the first place at his Baku meetings. We did not discuss measures that should be taken to stop conflicts, but pointed out that it was necessary to take efforts on resolution of the conflicts over Karabakh and Abkhazia, Aleksandr Chikvaidze stated. He appreciated the idea, of arranging a tripartite Transcaucasian summit, which was supported by Azerbaijan party. It is expected that the Russian party would be invited to take part in the summit. Now, he said, we should take measures to realize this idea and make concrete proposals.

Aleksandr Chikvaidze also informed that the parties agreed to open a Georgian embassy in Baku and an Azerbaijani one in Tbilisi.

The Georgian diplomat tendered an invitation of Eduard Shevardnadze to Geydar Aliyev to visit Georgia whenever it would be convenient.

Baku Seeks Revision of CIS Security Treaty

LD1602135694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1136 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Azerbaijan wants numerous provisions of the CIS Collective Security Treaty revised and updated, especially those covering threats to security of its signatories from within, as well as outside, the CIS. Azeri President Geydar Aliyev and Foreign Minister Hasan Hasanov made this known when they met with Aleksandre Chikvaidze, Georgian Foreign Minister, who had a stopover in Baku on his way to Iran.

Internal conflicts, the Azeri leaders think, are likely to make the CIS an unviable organizations.

Informed sources in the Azeri leader's headquarters told Interfax that economic cooperation between Georgia and Azerbaijan and the situation of Azeris in Georgia as well as cooperation between the two countries in the CIS framework had been discussed. An agreement was reached on opening a Georgian embassy in Baku and an Azeri embassy in Tbilisi.

Western Oil Contract Called 'Trump Card'

PM1702111594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Feb 94 First Edition p 6

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Sovindzh Abdullayev and Viktor Shulman: "Azerbaijan: Oil Trump Card"]

[Text] Baku—Representatives from a number of the world's oil companies who have secured a firm base in

Baku heaved a sigh of relief this week. An oil contract is to be signed as soon as possible!—this was the gist of the remarks made by Geydar Aliyev when he assembled the entire leadership of the State Oil Company a few days ago. The document signed here has given the go-ahead to all of the State Oil Company's proposals regarding the basic areas covered by talks with the BP-Statoil consortium, the U.S. companies Amoco, Unocal, Pennsoil, Remco, and MacDermott, and the Turkish company Tekis Petroleum. The Azerbaijani company has been empowered to prepare and conclude a contract with them.

Recently the fate of this contract has hung by a thread on a number of occasions. Following the change of government last June the Azerbaijani Government suspended the signing of this document, which caused confusion among the Western partners. But Geydar Aliyev explained away this step very simply: Azerbaijan is not rejecting the plan to develop the oil fields jointly, it merely wants everything to be done in a civilized manner with due account taken of national interests.

This may well have been an unpopular step. In a difficult situation when there was political infighting in the republic, and when it was suffering one military reversal after another at the front, this course of action paid no dividends to Geydar Aliyev, who had only just come to power. Articles started to appear in the world press, even in Turkey, that were sharply critical of Azerbaijan's position on the oil question. According to opposition forecasts, the republic ran the risk of advertising itself as an unreliable partner. But the new leadership stood firm and insisted on the need for a second expert analysis of the terms of this contract which was causing so much fuss.

During its work, the independent expert commission reviewed the percentage share of the anticipated profit in Azerbaijan's favor. The experts announced that they had managed to win back several tens of billions of dollars from the foreign partners. Admittedly, this did not happen without a great deal of huffing and puffing: The leader of the expert group was accused by a number of publications of extorting money from the Western firms, but the affair did not receive wide coverage, the talks continued, and all the indications are that they reached a successful conclusion.

A number of analysts are linking this surprising turn of events and the hasty conclusion of a contract with Geydar Aliyev's current visit to Turkey and his upcoming visit to Britain. Both these states are keen to develop Azerbaijani oil. Because, however economically interesting this contract proves to be for the republic, it is at the same time a powerful political trump card in Azerbaijan's hand which could potentially play a major role in establishing very close contacts with influential Western countries. Azerbaijan can thus provide itself with strong protectors and, most important of all, guarantors of the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Georgia

Georgian Troops Reportedly Amassing Around Zugdidi

LD1602191494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1751 GMT 16 Feb 94

[By non-staff ITAR-TASS correspondent Zurab Argun]

[Text] Sukhumi February 16 TASS—A military grouping of Georgian troops is being intensively concentrated in the Zugdidi district of Georgia, the press service of the Abkhazian Defence Ministry reported today.

According to information from the Defence Ministry of Abkhazia, "over 2,000 soldiers and officers, more than 40 armored cars, a large quantity of artillery guns and mortars have been concentrated there. Living force and materiel are being brought to the state border."

The augmentation of living force and materiel is also going on in the Kodor canyon. Similar military preparations by the Georgian side is a clear proof that Georgia did not give up the idea of resolving the problem of relations with the Republic of Abkhazia in a military way, a statement of the Abkhazian Defence Ministry said.

Official Describes Abkhaz 'Atrocities'

LD1602201394 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1521 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] In a talk with a CONTACT correspondent today, Vakhtang Kolbaia, head of the Gali Rayon administration and member of the Georgian parliament, said that the exodus of refugees from the territory occupied by Abkhazian separatists will not stop until the entire popuiation of the rayon has left the disaster zone.

According to preliminary information, between 8 and 12,000 inhabitants remain. They are in an extremely difficult situation, hiding in tea plantations in the daytime and gathering in groups of 10 to 15 people at night in order to flee via mountainous paths to safety.

Mr. Kolbaia called for the immediate arrival in Gali Rayon of international experts and observers to establish supervision in the Gali zone. In order to save the remaining population, it is necessary to set up a life corridor through which people could be evacuated.

The Abkhazian separatists and their hirelings are taking people prisoner, especially young people of Georgian nationality, whom they drive to Tkvarcheli and Ochamchire. The criminals commit their atrocities with such ingenuity that no traces are left. They bring both those who are alive and dead together into houses and set them on fire, turning residential quarters into ashes. Every day there are executions and acts of violence. Innocent people are being burned to death.

Russian Border Post Attack Seen as 'Provocation'

LD1702112994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1000 GMT 17 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow February 17 TASS—Abkhazian leader Vladislav Ardzinba called the attack on the first Russian border post of the Sukhumi frontier detachment on the night between February 10 and 11 a "provocation".

The Abkhazian parliament speaker sent a telegramme to the commander of Russian border troops, Colonel-General Andrey Nikolayev, saying that the incident at the first border post was a provocation against "border guards courageously fulfilling their duty and enjoying respect of the entire Abkhazian people". Nobody was injured during the attack.

ITAR-TASS learnt at the press service of Russian frontier troops on Thursday that Ardzinba promised in the telegramme that "adequate measures will be taken to track down and detain the provocateur".

Abkhazia Fears Georgian Army Invasion

LD1702112294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1046 GMT 17 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow February 17 TASS—Georgia's separatist republic of Abkhazia fears the Georgian Army is assembling forces to attack across the border, the press service of the Abkhazian mission in Moscow told ITAR-TASS on Thursday.

The mission, referring to the Abkhazian military sources, said over 2,000 Georgian soldiers backed by armour and artillery are now concentrated in the western part of Georgia. The press service warned against "an attempt of the Georgian Army to invade the territory of the sovereign republic".

Internal Troops To Guard Gas Pipeline to Armenia

NC1602142094 Yerevan SNARK in English 0943 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Tbilisi, February 16 (SNARK)—The internal troops of the Georgian Home Affairs Ministry start to guard the gas pipe-line which delivers gas to Armenia—it's an agreement achieved during the recent visit of Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan to Tbilisi, Vladimir Chikovani, Commander of the Georgian internal troops, told SNARK.

Mr. Chikovani also added the Georgian internal troops will provide for the safety of the repairing workers who are reconstructing the damaged part of the pipe-line on the territory of the Marneulinskiy region of Georgia. It needs two weeks to restore the line.

Vladimir Chikovani mentioned it seems as if the problem connected with the permanent safety measures for the open parts of the gas pipe-line will be solved.

Estonia

Defense Chief on Russia's 'Threatening' Statements

LD1602190594 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1500 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] A meeting between Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and Estonian Defense Forces Commander Major General Aleksander Einseln may take place in May, in Moscow. During today's meeting with foreign journalists, Einseln said that the proposal for such a meeting had originated from the Russian side. He noted that Estonia should strive for cooperation with all neighboring countries, including Russia. The major general, however, did not wish to elaborate on cooperation with its' eastern neighbor.

Speaking about Russia's military doctrine, Einseln emphasized that it looks quite acceptable on paper but one must look at how it is implemented. So far Russian statements have, in Einseln's opinion, sounded quite threatening. At the same time the army commander opined that a major part of Russia's aggressive statements are meant for domestic consumption or serve as blackmail. Einseln hopes that common sense will finally win in Russia too.

According to Einseln, he is on good terms with the Russian servicemen deployed in Estonia. Einseln explains the halt in the troop withdrawal with bad weather. Would you be keen to go anywhere in such weather? asked Einseln of journalists. Einseln supported the Latvian decision to agree to the Russian demands on Skrunda radar station. He is also in favor of reducing the number of Russian troops in Kaliningrad Oblast and the coordination of international aid provided to the Baltic Armed Forces. The (?forces) commander thinks that NATO's Partnership for Peace program, which Estonia joined on 3 February, is a step in the right direction, and at the right time. This has been reported by the Baltic News Service.

Head Russian Military Negotiator Arrives in Tallinn

WS1602204994 Tallinn ETA in English 1820 GMT 16 Feb 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Vice-Admiral Viktor Ovchinnikov, the head of the Russian military team at inter-state negotiations with Estonia, arrived in Tallinn on Wednesday.

It was Russia's initiative, his Estonian counterpart at the negotiations, Ago Tiiman from the Foreign Ministry, told ETA while adding that although a meeting between them was scheduled for Thursday, he had not been informed of the topics to be discussed.

On Wednesday, Ovchinnikov visited the Russian garrison in Tallinn and the former Soviet submarine training base in north west Estonia, Paldiski.

Russian Troops Headquarters Picketed in Tallinn

MK1602134094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Feb 94 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric: "Estonia"]

[Text] The first picketing of the Russian troops headquarters building in Tallinn took place at the call of the Estonian Party of National Independence. Party activists called for picketing the center of Russian troops in Estonia every Monday until they have been completely withdrawn from the republic's territory. Taking part in the action were many State Assembly deputies including former foreign minister Trivimi Velliste. All in all, nearly 200 people took part in the picketing.

Latvia

Cabinet Approves Russian Proposal on Skrunda Radar

WS1602131394 Tallinn BNS in English 1038 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Riga, Feb 15, BNS—Latvia's Cabinet empowered the country's delegation for talks with Russia Tuesday [15 February] to approve the Russian proposal on the functioning of the Skrunda radar.

Under the proposal, Russia will operate its early-warning radar station in Skrunda, Latvia, for four more years and dismantle it in 18 months after the term expires. In return, Russia pledges to complete its troop withdrawal by Aug. 31.

Rent Issue Holding up Progess of Skrunda Talks

LD1602202594 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1800 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] In the interstate talks between Latvia and Russia on the functioning of the Skrunda radar station, the delegations have agreed on all issues except the payment of rent. This was explained today by Sergey Zotov, the leader of the Russian delegation. Zotov said that Russia has offered to pay $2 million a year for the use of the Skrunda site. Latvia, for its part, is demanding an astronomical sum— $400 million.

In turn, Latvian delegation head Martins Virsis said that $400 million a year is the figure mentioned by Latvia at the start of the talks, just as Russia named its sum. Virsis expressed the view that the site by its nature is not one that can be bargained for, but there is a possibility that a compromise could be reached during the talks.

On the question of the number of military personnel servicing the Skrunda radar, Zotov explained that Russia

has accommodated Latvia's wishes, and has agreed to reduce their number from 817, which was initially requested, to 599. Virsis explained that Russia has not officially agreed to such a number of service personnel. Virsis noted that in the event the proposal is made officially, the number of personnel would be considerably reduced, and obviously the number would be necessary so that the station could function according to the technological process envisaged.

However, no agreement has yet been reached during the talks on the social provision for retired Russian military pensioners. Zotov stressed that Russia's agreement of a social nature is a part of the general agreement on the withdrawal of the army and the agreement on the Skrunda radar. Thereby the agreement on the withdrawal of the army cannot be signed separately. The talks will continue on Thursday.

Border Authority Agreement Reached With Russia

WS1702095694 Tallinn BNS in English 1931 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Jurmala, Latvia, Feb 16, BNS—Latvia and Russia have fully agreed on the text of an interstate agreement on frontier authority, Latvian Cabinet's spokespeople told BNS.

The agreement was reached during the current round of interstate talks in Lielupe, Jurmala.

The draft agreement provides for settlement of various conflicts and problems on the state boundaries without involving both countries' Foreign Ministries, Reinis Kazradzis, member of the Latvian group of experts, told BNS.

The conflicts, which can be settled in compliance with the agreement, include exchange of frontier regime violators, use of common water reservoirs and return of straggling cattle.

Kazradzis prognosticated that the agreement would be initialed before the talks conclude.

Latvia has already initialed a similar pact with Belarus; it plans to soon initial pacts with Lithuania and Estonia, Kazradzis said.

The groups of experts on social and Skrunda problems also continued their consultations today.

This round of interstate talks will be wrapped up today or continued tomorrow in accordance with their procedure.

Russia Remains Largest Trade Partner in 1993

WS1602141394 Tallinn BNS in English 1038 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Riga, Feb 16, BNS—Russia was the largest Latvia's trade partner in 1993, according to figures from the State Statistics Committee.

In 1993, Latvia imported 181.9 million lats in goods from Russia, or 28.5 percent of the total import volume.

From Germany, Latvia imported 63.7 million lats in goods, or 10 percent of the total import. From Lithuania and Sweden, Latvia bought 61.2 million lats and 33.8 million lats in goods, or 9.6 percent and 5.3 percent, respectively. Latvia bought 26.5 million lats in goods from Belarus, which is 4.1 percent of its total import.

The list of Latvia's imports was topped by energy and fuel resources which made up 45.3 percent of the total import volume. From the import, diesel fuel was 12.8 percent, gasoline was 8.7 percent, crude oil—7.8 percent, natural gas—8.1 percent and electricity—3.7 percent.

Latvia also bought land transportation vehicles (8.9 percent) and mechanical equipment (2.9 percent), basically, from Russia and Germany.

The trade analysis evidences that re-exports constitute large part of the country's 1993 export.

Mineral fuel and oil products made up 13.9 percent of the year's exports. From this, 8.4 percent was diesel fuel and jet engine fuel—2.1 percent.

The majority of these goods, or 48.3 percent, were sent to the Netherlands. Sweden received 17.4 percent of Latvia-exported fuel and oil products.

The electricity and natural gas exports were respective 0.7 percent and 0.3 percent of the total export volume. All electricity and gas that Latvia sent Russia was part of its supplies to the Russian defense forces, according to the statistical reports.

An important export position (8.8 percent) is occupied by timber and timber products, ferrous metals (7.7 percent) and buses (5.3 percent). Timber was mainly sent Great Britain, which received 31.6 percent of Latvia's timber export, Sweden (21.1 percent) and Finland (13.1 percent).

Ferrous metals were chiefly sold to Thailand (23.6 percent), China (13.5 percent) and Poland (11.1 percent).

Latvia's largest export partner is Russia to which Latvia sent 200.1 million lats in goods. Russia is followed by the Netherlands which received 55.1 million lats in goods, Germany with 44.5 million lats in goods. Sweden bought 43.8 million lats in goods, Ukraine—40.1 million lats in goods and Belarus—34.4 million lats in goods from Latvia.

UK's Hurd Visits, Meets Andrejevs

WS1702100594 Tallinn BNS in English 1931 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Jurmala, Latvia, Feb 16, BNS—Latvia attaches the first priority on the Russian troop withdrawal, the Baltic country's foreign minister, Georgs Andrejevs, told his British counterpart Douglas Hurd Wednesday in Jurmala.

Andrejevs cited the size of the military personnel at the Skrunda radar, the size of the radar's rent and the social status of retired servicemen in Latvia as the main obstacles that block Latvia and Russia from withdrawal agreement.

Commenting on the controversial citizenship issue, Andrejevs reminded Hurd that Latvia suffered from a heavy influx of Russian-speaking immigrants during the 50-year Soviet occupation.

At the same time, Andrejevs said, Latvia takes into account the reality of today and understands that "some compromises" are needed to implement a slow and careful process of naturalization.

Latvia regards its enrollment to NATO's Partnership for Peace program as the first step toward full-fledged membership in the Western alliance, Andrejevs said.

Hurd praised Latvia's efforts to return to Europe saying that "we see Latvia as part of the European family."

Hurd also spoke positively of Latvia's resolution to compromise with Russia on the Skrunda radar installation.

The foreign secretary pledged his countries' support to Latvia and other Baltic states in becoming active participants of the Partnership program.